

(cl³3)Whitehall 7th Feby 1777. [257]John Stuart Esq^r.

Sir,

Since my Letter to you of the 6th of Novem-
ber, I have received your Dispatches of the 23^d of
August, Numbered 5 & 6, and have laid them
before the King.

The Estimate of Expenses in your De-
partment in the Years 1775 & 1776, inclosed in N^o 6,
together with such Parts of your Letter as relate
to that Subject, have been transmitted to the
Lords of the Treasury. Their Lordships, I find, do
not think proper to direct the Issue of the Sum
you desire by way of Imprest into your Agents
Hands, conceiving it to be altogether unnecessary, [260]
as they have already given you Permission to
draw directly upon their Board for the Amount
of your ordinary Allowance, as you will per-
ceive by my Letter to you of the 5th of Sept^r;
and in regard to any Exceedings of that Allow-
ance, from extraordinary Expenses in your
Department, Their Lordships think it proper
that you should accompany your Bills with
a full Representation of the Necessity which
induced you to incur such Expense; and
when any additional Supplies of Presents from

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hence are required, their Lordships desire you will transmit an Indent / of the Articles, and an Estimate of the Value to their Board, and they will give such Orders thereupon as they shall judge necessary.

[You will have perceived, by my former Letters, how very high Expectations were entertained here of the Success of your Negotiations with the Indians in your Department; and it is with great Satisfaction we find, by the late Accounts from St. Augustine, that the Event has fully justified those Expectations.

[p. 4]
The Peace you have brought about, between the Creeks & the Choctaws, is a Measure which does you the greatest Honor; at the same time it proves your Influence with those Savages to be equal to any Undertaking the King's Service may require. The leaving the Choctaws at Liberty to defend the Navigation of the Mississippi, and the Commerce into West Florida through their Country, is a great Advantage at this Crisis in every View; but it becomes still more important, if we can suppose there is any foundation for the Intelligence, your Deputies have transmitted, of the Intention of the Rebels to make an Attack upon that Province by descending the Mississippi.

The Creeks will, I trust, no longer hold
back their Assistance from the Cherokee; and, ^[297]
with the Addition of the Succours they can afford
them, ^{I think} there is little Doubt that Nation will find
full Employment for all the Force Carolina can
raise, and that not only East Florida will be
safe from any Attempt from that Quarter; but
they will find it necessary to withdraw their
Troops from Georgia, and give the Inhabitants,
whom private Accounts represent disposed to
return to their Duty, an Opportunity of availing
themselves of the Pardon offered by His Majis-
ty's Commiss^{rs}??

Should the Approach of a large Body
of the Indians to the Frontiers of that Province ^[298]
& Carolina be attended with this good Effect,
you will concert with Gov. Lyn the properest
means of disposing of the Indians for protecting
those Inhabitants and covering the Province from
the Resentment of the Carolina Rebels; and take
the earliest Opportunity of informing the Com-
mander in Chief of so fortunate a Circumstance,
But if this should not be the case, still, as there
are many loyal Subjects of His Majesty in both
Provinces, tho' their Number is not so great as
to be able to overcome the Power of the Rebels,

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the utmost care should be taken to restrain the
Indians within proper Bounds, and to prevent
them from destroying indiscriminately the Pro-
perty of the King's faithful Subjects with that of
the Rebels. To this End, what you propose, of
appointing them Leaders from among the Traders,
& Persons accustomed to their Mode of Life, and who
are well acquainted with the Communications
through the Country appears to be very proper;
and you will accordingly employ such a Number
of them, as you shall judge necessary, making them
a proper Allowance for their Service, and include
the Expense in your Account of extraordinary
charges in your Department, and draw for the same,
in the manner I have already directed.

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I have only to add, that His Majesty has
the greatest Reliance upon your Prudence & Discre-
tion, in the Execution of the very delicate & import-
ant Charge committed to you, and as I have the
Satisfaction to acquaint you that your Conduct
in Negotiation has met the Royal Approbation,
so have I no doubt that you will acquit yourself,
as a Leader, to His Majesty's Satisfaction.]

I am &c.

Geo: Germain.

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Endowed Exat. to Mr Stuart. 17th Feb. 1777. / (N^o 3) / Ent^d

[ms]

Charlestown 29th September 1776

My Lord.

This is the first opportunity, which offers me the honor, to congratulate your Lordship on your preferment to that Department, whence I receive orders and directions, I wish this opportunity could be depended on, to transmit my Report and Observations also, however I hope to have the honor to be the deliverer myself. The present unhappy commotions have not excluded me from having a Share ever since I arrived in this port, where by order of the Admiralty I was landed the 7th of September 1775 in y^e armed Ship the *Whetoe* fitted out by his Majesty's order for my Service; after coming to anchor: Lord W^m Campbell requested the Commander of his Majesty's Sloop of War the *Tamar*, to take my Ship under his Command, and is ever since under the Command, who anchors in the mouth of Savannah River. whether my Ship has been any Service to Government in her present Station, for which it has not the necessary qualification, or whether my Service in her would have been of essential benefit to Government, I submit to the Judgment of my Superiors. At the removal of my Ship I was necessitated to land, and obtained from those, who held the reins in South Carolina, to erect an Observatory and take all observations necessary for

my Service until this Day. altho I am not counted among those of the Kings Officers, who had their appointments and Emoluments here, but I am upon the footing of a transient person, yet I understand, that I am not permitted to leave this port to go to any part of America unless I set out for Europe, and as I have no mean, to remove from here, I therefore pray, that Your Lordships will represent my case in his Majestys Council, that the Admiralty be desired to order the Cherokee under a flag of truce to demand and receive me, my Family, astronomical apparatus and furniture on Board to be conveyed to England, as this is the only means to preserve me for the Service intrusted to me, in hopes of your Lordships speedy Condescension to my request I have the honor to subscribe my self with profoundest respect

My Lord

Your Lordships

most obed^t and most humble Serv^t

Wm de Brahm

The Right Hon^{ble} Lord Sackville Germaine

Endorsed Charles Town, South Carolina / 29th Sept^r 1776. / Wm de Brahm. / R 25th Feb 4 1777. / Entd

N^o 10)

Pensacola 26th October 1776

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My Lord

I had the Honour of writing to your Lordship N^{os} 7. 8. & 9 by last packet since which I have not been honoured with any Command, from your Lordship.

I then communicated such information as I had received relative to the State of Indian Affairs. The inclosed copy of a Letter just received from Mr^r Cameron will give your Lordship an Idea of the distressed Situation of the Cherokees. I am this Day sending off a fresh supply of Ammunition to them; and as they will be soon assisted by their Neighbours the Upper Creeks I hope they will be able to stand their Ground.

For ten Days past I have had the Chiefs of the Upper Creek Nation with me; with them came the Chac.
law Ambassador who carried in, the Proposals for Peace^[230] to the Nation. At the Desire of the Creeks I sent to invite some of the Principal Chactaws to meet them here accordingly last Sunday Thirty of that Nation arrived here, Authorised finally to ratify & conclude a peace. Both Parties appointed to meet in the Street before my Door; each party had a white Flag as an Emblem of Peace and were highly painted. They halted about 300 yards distance from each other their principal Chiefs singing the Peace Song and waving Eagles Tails and Swans Wings over their heads, then

they began to advance slowly when at a signal given a number of young men sallied out from each party and made a sham fight in the space between them. At last both parties met, and after saluting each other joined hands in my presence. Their chiefs then came into my house, and delivered into my hands two blue clubs painted Red as the last ceremony of laying down ^[A. 37] their arms; which I promised to bury very deep in the Earth and made them a short congratulatory speech upon the occasion. The chiefs of both Nations vied with each other in strong declarations of their attachment to His Majesty, and determined resolution to act in his cause wherever required. The Chactaws remained here two days and had several conferences with the Creeks, on the third day I sent them away with presents and extremely well satisfied, and firmly engaged to obey such orders as I shall send them.

The Upper Creek chiefs have engaged to send assistance to the Cherokees immediately upon their return home. I represented to them the bad consequences of suffering a neighboring Nation to be cut off and their country to be possessed by Rebels, that each country singly would become an easy conquest to the Rebels, whereas by uniting their strength there is the greatest probability of their being not only able to repel the Enemy and defend their country but

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by joining themselves with His Majesty's Faithfull Subjects, they may become Instrumental in recovering the revolted Provinces to His Majesty, by which they would ^{be enabled} entitle themselves to his powerfull protection, to which alone they have hitherto been indebted for the quiet possession of their Country and the benefit of Trade which they enjoyed. I had the pleasure of finding that this representation had the desired Effect, but as all the Southern Tribes are greatly dispirited by the unopposed success of the Rebels, and no appearance of any support from Government to His Majesty's distressed Subjects in the interior parts of the Provinces, or to the Indians who have engaged in His Majesty's Cause. I was therefore obliged to explain this to them in such way as might best remove their apprehensions, and to give them hopes of a powerfull support to both during the Course of the ensuing Winter and Spring. Should General Howe adopt the plan proposed by General Clinton, of sending a Supply of Arms and Ammunition to the King's Loyal Subjects in Georgia and South Carolina with a body of Troops to assist and support them ^{there} I have engaged the upper Creeks not only to give them a free passage through their Nation but also to send a considerable Body of their People to Escort and act with them, and in this my Lord I think I have gained a great point as they are the most jealous

people in the world.

I had the Honour of acquainting your Lordship in a former Letter of my having sent for the Chiefs of the Lower Creeks; Some time ago I had the inclosed Talk from them in Answer to one which I sent them by a Mr Holmes and yesterday I received intelligence that about 400 of them have arrived on the other side of this Bay, and will be here this Day or Tomorrow, I hope I shall succeed in being able to prevail on a Body of them to go to Governor Tompkins assistance, notwithstanding the unweary'd Efforts of Mr Galphin and the Rebel Commissioners to reduce them. The inclosed Copies of Letters from Mr Galphin will show his zeal and Aridity in the Cause which he has espoused, the Originals are in my possession in his own writing which is very remarkable, and I also submit to your Lordship Copies of several Talks which were dispersed through the Nation. The Indians seem determined to defend Pensacola & Saint Augustine being made sensible of the Distress they would be involved in by the loss of them

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[in another hand]
Extract
sent to Mr
Cumberland.

[Upon my arrival here I found the Indian Trade from this Province in the greatest Confusion. Not one Trader from hence to any of the Nations under any Regulation or Security

for his Behaviour. The Merchants concerned in the Indian Trade find such amazing profit in bartering Rum for Deer Skins, that they oppose every regulation by which this Destructive Commerce can be prevented; for one Skin taken in Exchange for British Manufacture, there are five got in exchange for that Liquor; the Effect of which is that the Indians are poor wretched naked and discontented. I have done all I could to discountenance this Traffick but to Little purpose. Your Lordship will perhaps be surprised when I acquaint you that I have it from undoubted Authority that of 30,000 Gallons imported here some time ago in less than three months none was to be purchased

I begg leave to represent to your Lordship [p. 15] that by the Arrangement of Indian Affairs which took place in 1768 the Superintendants were divested of all Authority over the Traders, yet I have found it absolutely necessary to interfere so far as to instruct my Deputies to prevent persons trading with or residing among Indians without Licences as directed by His Majestys Proclamation of 1763; and I have also gone so far as to instruct them to use all the means in their Power to prevent the Rum Trade; and Mr Galt my Deputy in the Creek Nation is now prosecuted here, for Steps taken by him, in consequence of said Orders. This Situation of Indian Affairs at the

present Conjunction is very Dangerous, the Indians have Complained and I have applied upon the Subject to Governor Chester, who seems willing to assist in putting the Trade upon a footing of more Security. I humbly submit my Lord, that preserving the fidelity and Attachment of the Indian Nations in this District, to His Majesty is an Object of some Moment, and that such temporary powers and Instructions should be given to the Officers entrusted with the Management of Indians in this Department as His Majesty shall in his Wisdom think best adapted to that purpose]

We are under great apprehensions that the London ships bringing out the necessary Supplies for the Indian Trade will be intercepted as we have intelligence that three privateers of Eighteen Guns each are fitted out from Charleston & Beaufort in South Carolina for that purpose, such an Event would be very distressing and give the Rebels a great Advantage over us; I have therefore Judged it necessary to engage the Cruisers as soon as possible before such an accident can happen, if once fairly entered it will be difficult to gain them over to their Party.

[I beg leave humbly to represent to
 Cat. to Mr.
 Cumberland. Your Lordships, that the Opposition which I meet

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with from the Merchants concerned in the Indian
Trade and their Traders in the different Nations gives ^{me}
me great trouble and uneasiness, and that without I am
authorised and enabled to purge the Nations of bad dis-
affected persons who will not submit to Regulations
and give security for their good behaviour, I cannot an-
swer for the Steady Attachment of the Indians in my
Charge altho they are at present well disposed and no
endeavor of mine shall be wanting to keep them so.]

I have the honour of Submitting to your Lord-
ship a Copy of the last Letter which I received from
General Howe, by which I shall regulate my Conduct. I was
always averse to an indiscriminate attack but rather than
lose the Indians I must employ them to Assist the Chero-
kees & repel any invasion of East Florida

I have the honour of being with the utmost
Respect, My Lord

Your Lordship's / most obedient & most

humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right hon^{ble}

Lord George Germaine

one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State &c^r

Endorsed Pensacola 26th Oct: 1776. / J^{ns} Stuart. / (cl^{no} 10.) / ^[m 39]

R 5th March 1777. / (14 Inclosures.) / Cont^d

[p. 47]

Sir

I would be obliged to you if you know of any of my horses in your parts to get them & deliver them to John Crossley — I would advise you not to concern yourself in this unhappy dispute in either sides & to advise the Indians to Lay still & not concern in either sides or else they would soon be served as the Cherokeees are drove of their Lands their Towns burrid & their Corn all cut down — old Grahame is just come from their Camp I suppose there is 7 or 8000 men now in the Cherokeees killing & driving all before them — all the rest of the Creeks does not concern themselves. We are told there is 200 of the Creeks that May join the Kings Troops but I do not believe it — the Americans has the better every where they drive them off from their Town with great Loss both of Ships & Men — General Lee is now in Savannah with 3000 Rifle men he brought from the Northward he wants to buy 1000 pack horses I believe he is for Augustine so do you have no hand in advising Indians to join against your Countrymen for if you or any person that does they need expect no favor when the Americans gets the better as very Likely they will for they have sent Ambassadors to France & Spain for to Open a Trade & to join them they have declared an Independency so I would advise you & all my Friends in the Indian Country to Lay still & not

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middle on either sides it is cruel to set Indians on
 white people, — the bearer that is going up about the
 company business will Inform you of all the News
 here — I will be Obliged to you for all the News you
 have there & how those Indians stands affected & what
 number of men they have in Augustine there certainly
 will be Goods in here before Christmas & then both
 trade & Indians will be this way again you may
 depend upon it that Whoever stirs the Indians against
 us it will be worst turn ever they did. Mr. Cameron
 & all the white people that joined him in the Cherokees
 are run off for Mobile & if the Creek were to break
 out there would be 7 or 8000 Men Immediately sent
 [P. 1] against them for a third part, of all the Province is
 under pay & ready to march at an hours Warning

I am Sir

your hble Ser^t

Signed. G. Galphin

Aug^t 28th 1776

P.S. It is reported here that the Kings Troops is beat
 at New York with the Loss of 22000 Men & we have
 Lost 10.000 —

[P. 2] Endorsed copy of a Letter from /George Galphin/ To / Jas
 Burges / dated 28th August 1776 / In Mr Stuart's (N^o 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

[To John Stuart]

Toqueh 31st August 1776

Sir

I did myself the pleasure of writing to you the 25th Instant by a Creek Leader to the Little Gallanies thence to be forwarded by Mr Gault. I have already observed to you Sir that altho the Cherokee Chiefs have precipitately been lead by the Howards, The Dragging Canoe and the young fellows, to raise the Hatchet in defence of the King, as well as themselves but as it tends greatly to the Suppression of Rebellion I hope you may think it necessary to order the Creeks to join them, and preserve their Country from y^e Virginians which I am afraid will otherwise fall into their hands The Indians are very sensible now of their own error, when it is too late to be remedied. For my own part Sir, I am at a loss how to act at present, but as I think it for y^e good of the Service I encourage the Indians to carry on the war with as much Vigour as they can, Since they have once begun it; and untill they receive further Orders from you which they are ready and willing to obey, If they are supported, I think Sir that they will distress the Rebels in Georgia, both the Carolinas and Virginia so much this Fall and winter that they will gladly submit and procure peace on any terms with his majesty; tho they currently report that if the Kings Forces

invade them they will leave all to their mercy proceed
against the Indians and Rout them from the face of
the earth. We are daily expecting a Visit from the Vir-
ginians and should the Indians be defeated, this
nation will be abandoned and the finest Crops of
Corn they ever had will be destroyed. I could Erect
a Fort here and Build a Magazine for their Corn
&c if Government would go to the Expence of 100 £.
effective men with the assistance of the Indians would
depend it. When this Cherokee War broke out I took
the liberty with Mr Henry Stuart's approbation to
appoint Captain Gest to assist me what induced me
[p. 26] to this step Sir was that he is well known / On the
Frontiers of Virginia and had formerly great influence
over the Inhabitants, the Indians respect and think
much of him as a Warrior, I sent him with them in
Order to Direct them and prevent them if possible
from going over the Boundary line and to save the
lives of all His Majesty's faithfull Subjects that Came
to his knowledge, as well as Women and Children from
falling a Sacrifice to their Rage and in this he partly
Succeeded, for no person was hurt, but those found
in Arms; except one Boy, who was taken prisoner
and whom Bettico Villiams Tortured after he was
brought in; I was not returned when this happened,
this was their present revenge for eight men they lost.

among whom was your old friend the Salmon Singer.
I promised Captain Gest 10/ Sterling p day untill your
pleasure should be known but as things have turned
out he cannot be of much service at present unless
he was empowered to raise a company of men to
assist and animate the Indians. Subject at the same
time to Obey my Orders when here. -

I left Mr Hamilton in the Valley. I blame him
much for not being more active in suppressing the
Lower Settlement Indian on their first rupture but
he declares that he did all in his power to little or no
purpose they being in liquor they would listen to Reason
The Indians will not fight on equal terms without
being incorporated with some white people thus I am
convinced of from late experience They ran off and
left some of the white people to shift for themselves
Several times and one third of a party who went out
with myself at Gorguloo returned before we could see
the Enemy saying that they were too Numerous and
would cut us all off, thus they judged from Signs and
Tracks they saw only. The Traders for their own safety
at first setting out was obliged to join the Indians
and some of them behaved with much spirit, which
has given the Indians a better Idea of their manhood
than they ever had. I keep 4 white men and two
servants constantly about me, as well for my own ^[E-7]

defence as for the publick business, this Sir with the provisions expended will amount high, tho it is out of my power to avoid it just now a party returned from Holston and brought in 3 Scalps with them, they give no account of any Body of men being assembled together there, but they report that Walāga is deserted except One Fort which they still maintain.

The party of Northern Indians who brought the belt in here was joined by 3 fellows from this place and on their return home they took two women prisoners from Louisa River, (Henderson's purchase) The white people followed them and after 4 days March, came up with them fired and killed 3 two of whom were head men: Retook the women and defeated the Indians, the 3 Cherokee fellows got safe back. ~ I have had 12 of the Traders with me in the Lower Town and I ^[2.17] promised to apply to you Sir for pay to them/during One month at Twenty five Shillings p day, they suffered much Hunger and fatigue in the worst weather I ever saw. I lived most of the time upon a little parch'd corn flour, I did not know in what manner to maintain the few Loyalists who met me at Senneeca they could not support themselves with the Indians and as I had no Orders to provide for any Number of men I got provisions for them in the Valley Discharged and sent them under the Care of One of the Traders

to the bushes where Mr Brown I supposed would do something for them or send them to join His Majesty's Troops some where, there were very good resolute men amongst them. I was informed by Mr James Holmes, that Mr Stuart went up to Dorchester in April or May last to live with Doctor Oliphant's Family - I lost Lochaber, Negroes and all carried off by the Rebels and a good Stock of cattle and horses from the Golden Grove. [P. 49] I refer you to the inclosed as well as to Mr Colbert for further particulars. I beg that you will write and give me Instructions how to behave in regard to my office I am very respectfully, Sir

Your most Obedt and

most humble Servant

(Signed) Alex^r Cameron

PS

I am just now informed that the Carolinians have returned to the Settlement, and left two white flags standing at Sineka as an emblem of peace but I shall send the Indians after them. (I am told I don't know how true) that Mr Galphin begs the Creeks to stand Neutral. It seems also that the Shawnee are suing the Virginians for peace.

Endorsed

[²²] Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Alex^r Barrerou Esq^r /
To / The Superintendant / dated Toquich 31st Aug^r / 1776 /
In M^r Stuart's (N^o 10) of / 26 Oct^r 1776.

[p. 1.]

My Good Friend and Brothers

By the direction of the Great men of these Provinces of Carolina and Georgia I am directed to tell you that their desire is still to retain and hold fast that love which has for many years subsisted between you and us, and to for-
warn you of the consequences of a Quarrel between the white people of these provinces and the red people which if should happen must end in your own destruction and ruin We therefore wish to see five or six of your Head men that we may talk together to renew and con-
firm that Friendship which has so long subsisted and have sent up our friend Thomas Gray to come down with them who will also tell you of the unhappy war which the Cherokees have brought on themselves by believing the Lying Talks given them by Mr Stuart and his Men. [p. 2.]
I wish you well and am your Friend and Brother

(Signed) Jonathan Bryan

Savannah 1st Sept 1776

To the Headmen & Warriors
of the Creek Nation
Viz^t / The Cuskata King
Chino Mico
Sempioffe
Long Warrior
Long Warrior of the Cherokees
Pumpkin King

^[ms.] Endorsed: copy of a Talk / from / Jonathan Bryan / To the /
Head men & Warriors / of the Creek Nation / dated Savannah
1 Sept / 1776 / In Mr Stuart's (cl^o 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

[p. 50.]

General Lee Commander in Chief of all the
 Warriors Countries of Virginia North Carolina, South Caro-
 lina and Georgia, invites half a Dozen of the Head Men
 of the Lower Creeks to Savannah or Charlestown having
 something to Communicate to them which Concerns
 the Interest's of themselves, of their Wives, Children, and
 all their posterity

Savannah the 1st Sept 1776

[p. 51.]

Endorsed copy of the Rebel / General Lees Talk / to the
 Head Men of, the lower Creeks / dated Savannah 1st Sept /
 1776, In Mr Stuart's (p. 10) of 26th October 1776.

[29]
Cusitaws 19th Sept: 1776

Sir

This day word came into the Lower Creeks that the Rebels of Georgia have sett out with an Intent of taking Saint Augustine with Eight Thousand Three hundred men. Galphin has also sent Humatah with a Talk to all the Chiefs of the Lower Creeks desiring them to Call home all their young Warriors from that place, as they may not any of them assist his Majesty's Subjects, or take any part of the Quarrel on any side as it would be best for them, or the Rebels would soon have the Creek Nation in the same Situation with the Cherokees. The same day the King of the Cusitaws went up to the upper Creeks to meet the Chactaws that is come in with the peace Talk, what answer they will send Back by Humatah is / not as yet known. All the Lower Creeks are very uneasy you have not sent for them they had a meeting a few days past and desired Mr McIntosh to send you a Letter to inform you of their Intention of Coming down to Pensacola some time in October we have done all in Our power to pacify them and keep them in good humour but it is not me nor all the Talks Mr Galt can give them that will keep them off the Settlements at this time there is two parties out against the old Settlements of Augusta One party is gone out for Satisfaction

for an Indian killed by the white men this Spring
before the meeting at Augusta with the Rebels of
Georgia, and if any other Indians happen to be killed
they will still keep killing more and that may make
us up here as bad off as them in the Cherokees. this
Spring George Galphin and Robert, Rae sent up a
Letter to me thinking I would turn Rebel. I sent up
the Letter to Mr Yaitt to let him see it was not my
inclination to join any such Rebels but to be true to
my King while I live

I have the Honor to be

Sir your most Obed^t

and most h^{ble} Serv^t

(Signed Samuel Thomas

John Stuart Esq^r

^[p. 67] Endorsed copy of a Letter / from / Samuel Thomas / To /
The Superintendant / dated Cuscutaw / 19th Sept 1776 /
In Mr Stuart's (No 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

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Cusitaws 26 Sept: 1776

Sir

The 22^d Inst. I arrived here & I Immediately proceeded to find out the Sentiments of those Indians you desired I would write down, the head men are in General well pleased to hear from you & wishes much to see you & take you by the hand

Sempoyaffie, Escotchabie, the Young Warrior, the Cusitaw King, half breed Billy &c. Informed me Yesterday they would be ready to go with me to Pensacola whenever I pleased, we have a general meeting tomorrow at the Chihaws & after your talks are delivered, time for our sitting off will be appointed -

Some days before my arrival here Homahltah came up from Mr. Galphins Cowpen & brought several Letters &c. among which was one directed for Mr. Barnard which I opened (he not being at home) & finding the whole of them filled with Intelligence of consequence from the Rebels which so much concerned your department, that Mr. McIntosh & I concluded to send you them by express. Immediately after the meeting is over, & herewith Inclos. -ed you will receive every paper & Letter I got from him, except one small packet for Mr. Clark, which I expect he will acquaint you with -

You may depend Sir I will use my utmost endeavour to cultivate the Interest of Government in

General, and yours in particular among the Indians as long as I stay in their nation or have it in my power so to do. & I can now assure you that in a very short time, your Interest & Influence in the Lower Creek will bring them to any place wherever his Majesty's Service requires their assistance..

I have had a very long Conference with Homahlah the result of which was, that he took me by the hand, & said he would now take my Talk & do as I desired him. In consideration of which I made him promises to be performed when we got to Pensacola -

28th We had a General meeting yesterday & I am sorry to inform you that we could not prevail on them ^[647] to send any assistance / to East Florida or the Cherokees, untill they have the pleasure of seeing you which is an Interview they long expected & wish'd for, but afterwards they will be directed by you in every respect whatsoever -

We are this day informed that half breed Gray with three other rebels are coming to the Nation to give out General Lees Talks, but I hope to have the Satisfaction of seeing him here, in a few days, or hearing of his death, as there is one party of Indians gone from the Cherokees & I have got Sempoyaffie to send of another, so should he come to the place, we were informed he would, I am very well assured he will never return -

Cap: Philips and his party think it neither
safe nor prudent to return to Saint Augustine just now,
& desires I would mention to you they were going to Pensacola
Immediately --- I am much disturbd with red people at
present, therefore begs you will have reference to Mr: Mr: Intosh's
Letters for further particulars, as he tells me, he has wrote
you very fully

I am Sir with respect

Yr most Obt & very Able Servt

Signed David Holmes

The two talks wrote by Mr: Galphin & Dan: Mr:
Murphy. Homatiah deliverd to me with a promise
not to mention the contents to the Indians: I expect some
Late news from Georgia every day --- Mr: Brown tells me
that he has mentiond to you the news I had of trading
boats preparing by the rebels to go for Augustine ---

Hon: John Stuart Esq:

Endorsed Copy of a Letter from / David Holmes / To the /
Superintendent / dated Cumtaw 26th / Sept: 1776 - / In
Mr: Stuart's (CP: 10) of / 26th Oct: 1776.

[to John Stuart]

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[67]

Chatham Sept: 29th 1776 -

Sir

I hope in this time you have received my last from the Yuculatchy's by the mad dog, who before my arrival had resolved to pay you a visit; should not your presents reach the upper Creeks in a very short time I imagine you will be plagued with a number of troublesome visitants.

Upon my arrival at this place Messrs Wm Kintosh & Holmes informed me that agreeable to your desire the headmen of the lower towns purpose to set off for Fernacola in eight days. The upper Creeks I'm apprehensive will be very much displeased to find the lower Towns have the Liberty of waiting upon you when they in consequence of Mr Galt's request (for your convenience) had resolved to wait in their Towns for your talks & Presents.

I'm happy to find the lower Creeks in so favourable a disposition to promote the Interest / of ^[the Gov] Government - however disagreeably circumstanced at present they have resolved not to take any steps until they have had a conference with you, they have agreed to a man to turn out for the relief of East Florida whenever you think proper to make a requisition for that purpose - they have desired me to continue with my company of white Men and Ammunition until

they have received their orders from you & then have given me an assurance as well as the upper Towns that they will accompany me to any part of the Province you may order them as it will require some length of time before I shall be favoured with your Answer I shall leave the Ammunition in this place with a few of my party the rest I shall send to the Yuculatchy's being too many in number to receive Provisions at ^[p. 67] one place; whatever white men I can possibly procure in the mean time endeavour to engage & upon the receipt of your orders I shall proceed to such place as you think proper to direct, I could wish if time would permit you would favour me with such instructions as appear necessary for the regulation of my conduct with the Indians on their March. Be assured, Sir, as far as I am capable whatever orders you are pleased to give shall be punctually complied with and shall ever esteem it the greatest happiness to have it in my power after all your vexations troubles & afflictions to render you any service in my Power -

I fear much for East Florida it seems the Rebels have entirely desolated the frontiers of the Province and ^[p. 70] have acted with the most /merciless barbarity to the Planters whom they have stripped and turned loose to starve in the Woods after having destroyed their houses & Provisions - a small party has crossed the River St Johns

burnt & destroyed a number of Plantations - particularly one belonging to one Bourgeois (I think they call him) seized 30 of his Negroes stripped him his wife & family to the last Rag and drove them into the Woods - in some places they have destroyed the women & children -

The Continental Congress have declared as you perceive in the Georgia paper sent by Mr Holmes for an independency - & it is now the intention of the Rebels to confiscate all the property of the friends of Government & appropriate it to their own use - as you of course will be a most considerable sufferer dont you imagine, Sir, it would be practicable for me (after the Georgians have thought/ proper to invade private property - to make a seizure of Negroes &c to reimburse you for your various Losses & should be glad to have your Sentiments on this head; whatever mode you may prescribe for this purpose will be cheerfully adopted - The Indians I presume will be satisfied with a reward of perhaps 100 Shalks a head for every Prisoner white or black which perhaps may prevent many outrages & a great effusion of blood, further if the Indians are inclinable it may induce a number of the friends of Govt to desert the Rebel service when they are assured of Protection. As the express will set off from the Cuckees in a quarter of an hour I shall accompany Mr Holmes there & finish my Letter -

Cuchees

a person is just Arrived from Georgia and brings an Acc^t that Genl Lee was in Savannah with 3000 Men from Virginia N^o & South Carolina before he left Savannah General Lee was orderd to the Northward to take the Command of the Rebels in Virginia and 900: hundred of the Northward Rebels under the Command of a General Howe of N^o Carolina (a quondam intimate acquaintance of mine) had marched to Sunbury, from thence it is imagined they will march for St Augustine with a considerable reinforcement - daily expected - Mr Galphin the man informs me has furnished them with pack Saddles - & the Rebels have pressed his Masters Mr Galphins trading boats as well as those of the other Merchants in their service to accompany their forces in their March - they are fitted up in the manner of Spanish Launches with a piece of Cannon in the prow -

A Letter from Mr Galphin confirms the above intelligence and the Rebels are determined to take St Augustine or die in the Attempt -

From the above circumstances you will judge Sir, how necessary it is for a considerable body to be immediately marched down to St Augustine or an attack made in some part of Georgia to draw the Rebels from the Sea Coast to facilitate the landing of

the regulars -

I believe it may appear necessary to you to require the upper Creeks to afford every necessary assistance - I shall therefore make a reserve of a few horse loads of Ammunition which I shall Order to be Left in the Yuculatchy's to fit out the upper Towns & the remainder in the Chihaws for such as are inclinable to me I shall return to the Yuculatchy's and get all my Horses in readiness & there wait for your Orders - Upon the receipt of which I can take along with me the Creeks from the upper Towns & join the lower Creeks - [p. 74]

Governour Tompkins was sent for the Seminolies they are now upon their march to St Augustine -

M^r Gault can inform you of the artifices of a half breed - Gray he is now upon the road to this Nation sent by General Lee from a supposition that he has great influence over the Creeks - he was paid £100: Sterling before he set off to undertake this Jant with large promises if he performed his Commission. 2 parties of the Chihaws & Cusitaws have turned out under the command of the old Irish man to take him dead or alive.

A Cusita has been lately killed by the Rebels which has exasperated that Town beyond measure -

Yool Harry Cusita Billy Omatah & some others of the same Stamp have mentioned in public

[p. 75]

that they have thrown away the Virginians & purpose to hold you fast. Fool Harry intended himself to have apprehended Gray.

I must refer you to Mr. Grierson's Letter for Cherokee intelligence. The Indians in the Ochfusky's told me there was not a Warrior in the Cherokee Nation -

I shall write to Mr. Yalt P.^r Cornell my Com.
- pliments to your Brother & him & I remain
with sincere respect & esteem

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

Signed: Thos. Brown -

If Cap^t York & the rest of the Men
should not have left Pensacola
I should be obliged to send them
up to the Nations as soon as possible

[p. 76] Endorsed copy of a Letter / from / Thomas Brown
Esq^r / To / the Superintendant / dated Chetaw 29th Sept^r /
1776 / In Mr. Stuart's (P.^o 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

E-777

Sir

I am sorry to hear by Pigg that you have been doing what you can for the Kings Troops there is an Army gone against Augustine to take it if you are still our friend tell the Indians not to interfear in either side least they suffer the fate of the Cherokee, there is Six-thousand men in their Nation and have cutt down all their Corn -

Mr Barnard will be with you to get the skins which you will deliver to him. I still hope you are now wiser than joine on the other side if you have by God you will repent it

I am yours

(Signed) Dan^l Mc Murphy

a true copy

Endorsed copy of a Letter / from / Dan^l Mc Murphy / To /
John Duges at Flint / River / In Mr^s Stuar^t's (cl^o 10) of /
26th Oct^r 1776. ^[copy]

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

My Friend

I hope you nor none of your people will concern
in this Family Affair between England & this Country
the Creeks is a wise People not like the Cherokees, they
joind the Kings troops now their Towns is all burnid
their Corn cut down & themselves drove into the Woods to
perish & a great many of them killed. it was said
there was 200 of your people at Augustine helping the
Kings people but I said it was a lie, so if any of them
is there ball them home or perhaps it may bring trouble
upon them & their Nation. There is a great many Ships
gone off to look for Goods & when they return we will
let you know, in the mean time your Friend D. Hobbs
will get goods for you at Pensacola till we can get
goods for you here --

From G. Galphin

Endorsed copy of a Talk, from / George Galphin / to /
the Creek Indians / In Mr. Stuarth's (No. 10) of / 26th Oct: 1776. [m.]

49

[P. 15]

A Talk from the Ocharuckey Warrior in behalf
of himself and the Head Men of the Lower Creek Nation

My Friend

The different Towns on this River has made broken days to go and see you. We are now going to reach out our hands to take you by the hand, your talk which we have long looked for is now come, & have heard it, we are now going to see you, we have seen your talk & like it much, we do not turn aside any of your talks, but will at all times pay the greatest attention to what you tell us - We are to set off in eight days from this date, and you may depend we shall be at the Bay of Pensacola in ten days after we leave our Towns, we all hope when you see this that you will be satisfied in your mind, that we are well affected. When we get near you, Mr. Holmes will go ahead & acquaint you that we are close by, when you see this you will consider that it is by your Invitation that we go, you may expect the head men of Fourteen Towns, more of us would go & see you than what is intended, but you complain of the scarcity of Provisions therefore we shall take but as few of our people as possible -

We hear that the Virginia People wants to spoil our friends of Saint Augustine & Intends to stop

our path from our Nation to that place, & Mr. Gaitt has
sent us a Talk which comes from the Governor of East
Florida, requiring our Assistance, but as your talk &
Mr. Gaitt's talk does not agree, we do not know what
way to give Assistance first, whether to the Cherokees
or Saint Augustine, therefore we can say nothing till
we see you and then whatever your orders are we will
agree to & give every assistance in our power —
As for the number of Red People that will go from
the different Towns, we cannot just now acquaint you,
but as we have before said Mr. Holmes will go ahead &
acquaint you, you may depend we shall leave such
men as will be able to watch the motions of the Rebels —
When we meet we all hope that all matters will be
properly settled between our Great Kings Friends and
all Red People —

[206]

/Signed Charvuley Warrior

Chihaws 28th Sept^r 1776

Yo

Our Beloved Friend

The Hon: John Stuart Esq^r:

at / Pensacola

[207]

Endorsed copy of a Talk / from the / Charvuley Warriors
sent / Yo / the Superintendant / 28 Sept 1776 / In Mr. Stuart's
(N^o 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

[1] John Stuart

51

[P. 59]

Yough 23^d Septem^r 1776

Sir

I have flattered myself for some days past with the agreeable hopes of receiving advice from you but as that is not the case and that delay may be dangerous as matters are Circumstanced at present I have taken the liberty to send the Beaver John Denby Express to you ~

An Army Supposed from North Carolina and Virginia have been in the middle Settlement for these Ten days past and burned and destroyed the whole Settlement. The Indians sent over here for assistance and we detached about 250 men which was all we could Venture to spare and which we thought sufficient to Rout the white people, but I am just now informed by a runner just arrived that they had an Engagement two days ago in which the Indians were Defeated, they fought the white people with their Tomahawks, when on their March to the Valley and Routed one wing of them, but they were surrounded by a fresh Body and Routed in their Turn the Indians had only Three men killed and 7 or 8 wounded. But the Army who lay at Seneca have I suppose appointed to meet that in the middle Settlement, those in the Valley march'd and arrived there last night without opposition the Valley Indians does

[P. 60]

not incline to assist in the Defence of their Country but seem more inclined to treat for peace if they know how to obtain it upon any Terms. This Nation are so divided at present that their Resistance will not avail They have several parties out towards Wataga from this Settlement, those who went to the middle Settlement are watching that Army and those of the Valley are scattered in the Woods; towards the Creeks and all the men at home in this Settlement [27] will not amount to more than 150 Men. They set off to morrow morning for the Unwey where they expect to meet the white people, but their resistance can be but feeble, the Rebels are so flushed with Success that they may attempt to proceed still farther - They can be supplied with corn and some battle in this Settlement and a good many more battle from the Valley and what will become of the Indians I do not know - For my own part Sir I think it was bad policy to hinder the Creeks from assisting them since the Cherokees did unfortunately break out for both Nations were certainly able for the Frontiers of the adjacent provinces and I am afraid that the Creeks will be intimidated from raising the hatchet by the example of the Cherokees - The Cherokees are much exasperated [28] against the Creeks for being Spectators in this Quarrel and if matters should turn so unfortunate

(tho' I hope that will never be the case) that the Chero-
kees should treat with the Rebels, I doubt not but they
would willingly assist to reduce the Creeks to the same
State with themselves. This Sir however is best to be kept
a Secret. The Catahaws are in the middle Settlements
with the Rebels -

For my own part Sir I do not know how to
behave, they will not admitt to my leaving the Nation
tho I do not think myself altogether safe amongst them.
I do not mean the danger from the Rebels but what
may happen from friends here particularly those of the
Vally. The Great Warrior sent an Express after me
when I was last there for fear they should knock me
up. Those of this and the lower Settlements seems very
firm and well attached and I never was used with
more respect and friendship by them than at present -

I never had it in my power to send / their ^[p. 21]
Quota of the presents to the Vally middle and lower
Settlements and how to get them off now I do not know,
I gave out near one half of the whole to the people here
but they served only about 20 of the principal men in
every Town and not quite that -

If you do not mean to thro' away your Chil-
dren of this nation altogether Sir They will require to
be supply'd with as much more Ammunition as was
sent them last, they have nothing else to depend upon

for their living this winter - Blankets and paint ^{to} 300
at least a Store may be fix'd about half to the Creeks
from which place the Cherokees may be Supply'd if
you should approve of it - and if any provision can
possibly be got there. If you take care of them Sir they
will yet distress the Enemy and that very much this
winter particularly if you should think proper to Order
the Creeks to their assistance. The Cherokee Traders will
not return here with any goods this winter unless you
should think proper to engage them for the publick Ser-
vice they will all go to Mobile and I desired them to
call upon Mr Charles Stuart for his Commands I have
promised Denby Fifteen pounds Sterling for this Express
and he is the only person I could get to go for that Sum.
be pleased Sir to pay him as I wrote you fully lately by
Colbert &c. I beg leave now to conclude - The Great War-
rior &c was to have come down here to morrow to send
you a Talk but the War whoop is all over the Town and
their thoughts are otherwise employed - You are all in
all with them now Sir and they look for your Support
now more than ever I am forever with great respect
and Esteem Sir

Your most humble / & most obedient Servant

(Signed) Alex^r Cameron

¹⁷⁷⁶ Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Alex^r Cameron / To / the
Superintendent / dated Toquach 28th Sept / 1776 / In Mr Stuart's
(N^o 10) of / 26 Oct^r 1776.

[27]

To Sinittahaugy & Brother & the rest of the
head men at the Forks

Freinds & Brothers

I now send you this talk as I have ever been
your Freind, I expect that none of the Indians will
Join the Kings people but you will sit still in your
houses and look on for we do not want to hurt you, if
you should join the Kings people it will bring on a War

There is three Great Armys in the Cherokee &
has killed upwards of one hundred of them. We have
Six Thousand men now in their land & burnt Eight
towns & Cut down all their corn, this is a true Talk
so I hope you will send to the bow keeper & let him
know lest some of his Mad men should join —

I am your Freind

Signed Daniel M^c Murphy

[27]

Enclosed copy of a Talk / from / Danl M^c Murphy / To /
Sinittahaugy and the / rest of the head men at / the forks /
In M^c Stuarth's (cl^o 10) of / 26th Oct: 1776.

[1007]

Ogeechee Aug^t 18 1776

Dr Sir

Last Monday there was a white man shot & one Wounded at the Ford of the upper path on Ogeechee, the man was not scalpt but his head was masht, a trading gun left, & his rifle carried away & four or five horses, &c. people thinks it was some of the relations of the fellow that was killed upon Ogeechee, if it was you can easy hear the person that did it. if the Creeks does break out they will be served in the same manner as the Cherokees, the Lower Cherokees are all drove off & their Towns burnd & a great many killed, Marberrys Company & the Augusta people in all about 300 men went to the Cherokees burnd 2 Towns & killed about 20 men & women they kill all make no prisoners they took a white prisoner & tells them that M^r Cameron is afraid of being killed every day by the Indians, is obliged to keep in the Woods he says he does not know but they have killed him before this time, for he told them lies, he said the Kings people had taken Chat Town & was upon their march up & that the Virginians had no Ammunition - & the first party of Indians our scout met with threw away their Guns & run up with their tomahawks to knock them in the head but they had 10 or 12 men killed & beat off. Major Williamson has upwards of 2000 Men now in the Cherokee Nation 2 or 3000 from Virginia so they never are to return till

they destroy the Cherokees & drive them off their Land - & if
the Creeks break out they will be served the same & the enemy
that goes against them never will stop till they go to Pen-
sacola; there is not one Kings Ship at Char Town. they
took a Store Ship the other day belonging to the Fleet with
50 highlanders aboard & the Northward People took three
transports with all Traus Highlanders aboard 700 & odd Men
- General Lee is just come to Savannah with 3000 & odd
Men & they say the half of them are Volunteers, he is upon
a secret expedition & there is men joining him every day,
A man just come from Char Town says Independence
is declared. I would advise you & D^r Holmes to get your
skins down as fast as you can for the Majority of the
people wants a Creek War for I suppose in a few Months
they could raise 5 or 6000 Men to go against them & by
the time they got to the Creeks the Creeks would be glad
to join them for peace to go against the Floridas / as for
my part I concern myself no way but to keep the Creeks
peaceable that I will do if in my power & I think Govern-
ment ought to be obliged to me, for if their Commissioners
had got their ends the Creeks now would have been in
the same Condition with the Cherokees & there would have
been an enemy in the Creeks now on their way to Pen-
sacola - Frank Lewis had a narrow escape they
followed him nigh the Okmulgee he is obliged to Figg
for he met the people & told them the Okmulgee was high

& that they could not come up with Francis, or they would have caught him before he could have got to your house, you need not think of getting any thing from here, for there is a scout every 6 miles from head to foot of Ogeechee, watching for fear of people going off tho there has been some slipst off — Lewis told down that Land over Ogeechee, any Negroes that were willing to go might be got off mounted upon good horses — there was 40:000 Gun powder came in the other day to North Carolina two Vessels into Chas Town with Rum Sugar & Powder. there is a 24 Gun Ship gone from Chas Town to France with some principal Men on board & 150 men I suppose it is to settle a trade — When Onahitah comes down send all my horses down you can find & get them too from Anderson he stole he told me he delivered them to D Holms — A man just come from Savannah says they have declared an Independence there & burned the King, he saw Letters from the Northward that give an Account of 12 Merchant Ships carried in to Philadelphia among them was our friend John M^c Gillivrays Ship from Pensacola, they are going to confiscate the money that is owing to the Merchants in England to pay it to the people in this Country that has their money seized at home, & the Congress sits next month & I suppose all the Tories Estates will be seized. So get your Skins down to Pensacola as soon as you can & write D Holms to

Ship them as soon as possible, that you may pay your
debts in England, No Law should prevent a man from
paying his just debts. as for what skins you have here
it is Impossible to get them there for they woud all be
made prize of if they were Carried over OQuechee - I am
sorry an Independence is declared for I was still in hopes
affairs woud have been Settled but now it is all over -
the Americans has great encouragement from the French
Spain & the Dutch they say they will protect their trade -
there is a 36 gun Frigate just ready to be Launched in
Char' Town there is several Donells Building & a great many
gone out lately - I do not see that we are much in want
of any thing yet, you could hardly believe the Industry
that is in the Country & the Spirit for War among the
Men is Extraordinary, I have bought homespun from
2/ to 5/ a yard, I shoud be glad to hear from you & D Holms,
if you have got your skins all down & what time you
intend to ship them, you shoud go to the Forks & get
them Skins, I was advising Daniel to send up to the Forks
to order them skins to Pensacola - I came out here to deliver
a gang of Steers to a Butcher I have sold about 300 they sell
well from 50/ to 60/ St. ea. remember me to D Holms, when
you write to him all his friends are well here Mr. Parkinson
& Patt was very Ill but is better -

I am Sir / yours Sincerely

Signed G: Galphin

Aug^t 22^d

P. S.

I have just had an Account from a person that came from the Cherokees in one Battle the Cherokees lost 70 men & there was but 5 or 6 white men killed & 12 wounded. the Carolina people has destroyed the Lower Towns & cut up all their Corn. North Carolina has served the Middle Settlements the same — the Virginia people between Holstein & the Cherokees had a battle they found 20 Cherokees dead & saw where they had dragg'd off others & did not lose a man only 3 wounded — the last Accounts from the Northward says there is 30:000 Kings troops arrived there & Gen^l Washington at the head of 60:000. waiting for their landing at New York: this is I wish that they were in Hell that was the means of so many brave men being killed & God knows when there will be an end to it, now as there is an Independency declared. I shall go home in a day or two. I cannot say when I shall be here again. I have enclosed you a Letter I had from M^r. Grierson, which you may depend is true the fore part was about Business I tore that off — You will find the Inclosed Letters —

A True Copy

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / George Galphin / To / Timothy Barnard / dated Igeechee 18th / August 1776 / In M^r. Stuarth's (N^o. 10) of / 26th Oct^r. 1776. [P. 100]

Sir

I had collected a considerable body of Indians of this Province to proceed on an Expedition, they seemed more eager to go than I could ever wish: but on Friday last arrived the old Indian with his people, from Meccasukie, who to my Astonishment has given quite another turn to the Intentions of all the Indians who were assembled here. — those from Meccasukie have told that all the Creek Nations were now in peace, by the talks he had from them, & that they were determined in the Nation to continue so & leave the white people to end their disputes amongst themselves. This resolution has taken place among them, although a party was set out yesterday, to put what I designed into Execution —

I therefore earnestly desire you will get Messages sent to all these Indians of this Province, from the Creeks Nation with directions from them, to come to me, & to co-operate with me against his Majesty's Enemies. No delay must be lost in this Business, & every means must be used to accomplish it. It is of the very greatest moment to us, our people have already been drove by the Rebels, from St Mary River & Amelia Island, & we are now threatened with an Invasion on Saint Johns River. I lately wrote to you & to Mr Stuart to desire a body of Indians from the Nation to be sent here: I now repeat that Request & further what I have

above mentioned, — Let me begg of you to exert yourself
in this matter & that it may be done as soon as possible —
the two Perrymanes went from hence some time ago, promis-
ing to bring a large body here from their Neighbourhood,
but I fear they may be Influenced by the Meccasukie
people — Pray use every means to bring the Creeks
down here & that they will lay strong Injunctions on all
the Symmonnokees & these people of the lower Towns, to
co-operate with me for his Majesty's service, I always
knew the Symmonnokees would regulate their conduct by
that of the Nation & the Meccasukies pretend they know
the Sentiments of the Nation & have given it out as des-
cribed already — I hope Mr. Stuart is arrived at
Pensacola, to whom I desire you will Communicate
my request, I have not time just now to write to him
— be active in this matter & you will Greatly Oblige

Sir / Your most Obedt

most Able Servt.

(Signed) Pat Goryn

Saint Augustine 3^d Septemr 1776

The Indians were all in high Spirits, & I knew
Nothing of this Change untill this day. —
Yo / Mr. Gaitt.

[Enc.] Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Gov: Goryn / To /
David Gaitt Esq: / dated St Augustine / 3^d Sept. 1776 /
In Mr. Stuart's (N^o 10) of / 26th Oct^r 1776.

N^o 11)

Pensacola 26th October 1776

[P. 107]

My Lord

I think it my Duty to inform your Lordship that about six weeks ago we had intelligence here that a party of 18 armed men in a Balteau had arrived at New Orleans by the River Mississippi and with the Spanish Governours permission had hired a house there. their Leaders name is Gibron who gave out he had come from Detroit to find a market for Peltry as all commerce with the Northern provinces was at an end, but little or no enquiry was made concerning them or their Business, untill about 10 Days ago that some account was brought of their having returned up the Mississippi with their Balteau load of Gun Powder: Upon which I immediately wrote to Mr Charles Stuart to order out a party of Chickasaws to waylay and endeavour to intercept them. I submit to your Lordship a copy of Mr Stuart's Letter in answer to mine & also of an information given him by two French men upon oath. As no time was lost in sending the necessary orders to the Chickasaws, and as a party of Choctaws will also go upon the same service, I hope to have it in my power to send your Lordship good accounts of the Balteau

[P. 110]

& her loading I have the honour of being with
the utmost Respect

My Lord

Your Lordships

Most obedient and most

humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right Honble

Lord George Germaine

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State &c.

[1042] Endorsed Pensacola 26th Oct^r 1776. / Mr Stuart / (N^o 11.) /

Rd 5th March 1777. / (3 Inclosures.) / Ent^d

(copy)

Tuesday — Mobile 23^d Oct^r 1776

Sir —

Last night I received your Letter of the 18th & immediately set about getting a proper person to carry the Intelligence to John M^c Intosh — & am much obliged to M^r James M^c Intosh, who finding I could get no trusty person, was so obliging as offer himself, he will set out in two hours, say at 3 O'clock P. M. — I sent M^r John M^c Intosh a copy of what you wrote me upon the Subject: I sincerely wish he may be able to answer your expectations, — but as all the Indians are out — he will find some difficulty to get enough of them together

M^r Colbert is at present up this River other ways I would have sent him off immediately, but was resolved to lose no time in an affair of so much importance, as there is now a very great probability that the Safety of this Province depends upon it, you did not mention how you got the Intelligence, nor where they got the powder, I suppose the Governor will make it his Business to find that out —

I am

Sir

Your most Obed^t Serv^t

(Signed) Chas Stuart.

The Hon^{ble} John Stuart Esq^r —

^{part 2} Endorsed copy of a Letter / from / Chas Stuart Esq /
to / the Superintendant / dated Mobile 23^d Oct^r / 1776 / In
Mr Stuart's (N^o 11) of / 26th October 1776.

West Florida's

Personally appeared before me Pierre Bonnette
and Joseph Tein who being duly sworn on the Holy
Evangelist of Almighty God, saith that five or six
days before they left New Orleans which was on the
fifth Instant. They did see a large Batteau or Barge
(having an Officer and Eighteen men on Board Load-
ed with Gun powder to the Gunnels which was
Striped in the Night opposite to the Town) sett off from
the upper Gate of the Town where a Guard is kept
and where she lay two days with the powder cover-
ed and that Mr Pollock transacted their Business
for them that they the deponents declare that they
did receive from said Mr Pollock the Sum of Twenty
Two dollars for making a Sail and Tarpaulin and
an Auning for said Barge. That they heard that
said Barge was destined for Detroit That they
Hired a Frenchman Named Pierrot to Pilot them [Pierrot]
who was to be left at the Illinois —

Sworn at Mobile this

23^d day of October 1776

before /
Signed { Ch: Stuart
10^m Johnston
A Grant

Endorsed copy of Affidavit / In Mr Stuart's (ch. 11) [Pierrot]
of / 26th October 1776.

Mobile 24th October 1876

Sir

Inclosed I send you the deposition of Pierre Bonnette and Joseph Gerin two frenchmen who gain their livelihood by carrying on a small trade along the coast. I obtained the information from them they not suspecting that I would ever put an Oath to them which however I immediately did in presence of Captains Johnston and Connor also Doctor Grant which so terrified the poor wretches that it was with difficulty they then would repeat what they told me before, the whole of which I had told the above Gentlemen before they saw them suspecting some equivocation but they made very little, only beg'd their Names might not be inserted nor Mr Pollocks (who is the person whose name is left out, at their particular request) as it would they said inevitably ruin them at Orleans where they have connections, and they further informed me in the morning that the Batteau or Barge was loaded at the Kings Magazine on the opposite Shore or opposite to the Town but fear afterwards would not allow them to swear to that which I would not press upon them as thought my telling you of it would answer, as I could if called upon swear to it. They also told me in the morning that the Barges People had hired one Francois to pilot them before they had Pierrot

but on his being told of the risk he ran if taken
at the Natchez or elsewhere he feigned sickness and would
not go which leaves room to suspect that people in
authority has assisted them - This also accounts for
Monsieur De La Chaze's information of its being told
to the Inhabitants of Detroit ~~via~~ that all Canada was
in the hands of the Rebels and that they were bring-
ing their peltry down the Mississippi this report
may have been propagated the better to impose on the
the Spanish Governor as I think it will not admit
of a doubt but that they had their friends at Orleans
and I think Mr Pollock may safely be suspected as
Mr Wilton declares when he was at Orleans he was
asked by Mr Pollock's clerks if he had any powder
^{for} that they were much in want of some of this Mr
Wilton can inform you. - I hope some measure will
be taken to prevent another supply otherwise they may
carry as much as they please. Captain Johnstone says
that 16,000^{lbs} of powder will make 640,000 Cartridges
which is 30 rounds a man to 20,000 men and some
to spare which is an amazing supply. Should it go
by way of the Illinois I make no doubt but Monsieur
Rochblave will exert himself to stop it if not imposed
upon by false passes. I think that Gentleman should
be wrote to. I sent you a letter of his to me by mons^r
La Chaze

This goes by Captain Johnstone who will tell
you his Opinion of Mobile Fort

I am

Sir

your most Obed^t

humble Servant

(Signed Cha^s Stuart

The Hon^{ble} John Stuart Esq

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / M^r Cha^s Stuart / To the /
Superintendent / dated Mobile 24th Oct^r 1776 / In M^r Stuart's
(N^o. 11) of / 26th October 1776.

(164.)

Whitehall, 24 April 1777.

[p. 125]

M^r Stuart.

Sir,

I have received, & laid before the King, your Despatches numbered 10, 11 & 12, but those numbered 7, 8 & 9 have not come to hand.

I have already expressed to you His Majesty's Approbation of your Conduct in the very important and arduous Business of negotiating a Peace between the Creek & Choctaw Indians, and engaging the former to give Assistance to the Cherokees in which you have so happily succeeded. The distresses of those People call for every aid in your power, and the supplies of Provisions and other Necessaries you sent into their Country, must have proved a very reasonable Relief, and convinced them of your Attention to their Wants, and that their Fidelity to the King will not be suffered to pass without its reward.

The safe arrival of the Merchant Ships, with the trading Goods, which I learn by private Accounts happened in a few days after the date of your letter 12, will have relieved you of all apprehensions on their account: and as you will have soon after received Information of a large supply of Goods for Presents, being provided for

[p. 126]

you, and shipped on board the Lord Anson, Ordnance Store Ship, which must have been long since with you, I have no doubt you will have been able to fix the Creeks in their resolution of assisting the Cherokees, & co-operating with His Majesty's Troops in any Service it may be judged proper to undertake.

[In the next Campaign every possible effort will be made to reduce the Rebel colonies to obedience; to which end orders are given to Lieutenant Governor Hamilton, at the Detroit, to employ the Indians of his District in making a Diversion on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania & Virginia. This will effectually assist the Cherokees by preventing any Attack upon them from those Provinces, and if you can likewise bring the Creeks to act on the Frontiers of Georgia and Carolina, they will themselves be able to deal with any force the Rebels can spare to make head against them.

The distress and alarm so general an Attack upon the Frontiers of the Southern Provinces must occasion cannot fail of greatly assisting Sir William Howe's Operations to the northward during the Summer, and of giving facility, to any Enterprize he may

direct against the Carolinas & Georgia in the
Winter.

I am not indeed without hopes the latter
Province may be reduced without the Assistance
of any other Force than what you can collect,
and may be spared from the Garrison of
St. Augustine, but as I have in my letter of the ^[p. 125]
7th February (triplicate of which is inclosed)
fully stated to you, my Wishes and expecta-
tions on that head it is unnecessary for me to
repeat them here. I have only to add that with
a view to this Service a large supply of Goods
for presents to the Indians has been prepared
and shipped on board the Springfield Trans-
port which carries out Ordnance Stores to
St. Augustine, where they will be delivered to
your Agent, and it is proper I should also
acquaint you that a further supply of those
Goods will be sent to Pensacola early in the
Summer.]

I am &c.

Geo: Germain.

Endorsed Des^t. / To M^r. Stuart 2^d April / 1777 - / (164) / Ent^d. ^[p. 126]

N^o 121

Pensacola 24th Nov^r 1776

[Enc.]

My Lord

Since the Letters which I had the Honour of writing to your Lordship the 26th of October N^o 10 and 11 of which I inclose Duplicatis: I have not received any of your commands

Upon the 27 ult^{mo} I was visited by the Chiefs of the Lower Creek Nation; the whole party amounted to about 500 persons I found them perfectly well affected to his Majesty's Cause and ready to enter into my views; and upon a Supposition that east Florida was invaded by the Rebels determined to set out immediately in Defence of it. Things were in this Situation when I received a Letter from Mr Mcintosh assistant in the Lower Creek Nation, informing me that a considerable Body of Rebels had been discovered by some Indians, upon their march about 70 miles from the Creek Towns and that every person who could carry a Gun had gone off to oppose them. Upon communicating this news to the Chiefs, they went off immediately determined to defend their Towns; however the alarm was without Foundation, for when the Indians who behaved with the greatest alacrity got to the place where they expected to have met the Rebels they could not discover the least vestige of them. This affair has given us

[Enc.]

a Specimen of the Spirit of the Nation as they were all in motion upon the occasion amounting to near three thousand men The Traders and other white men who happened at that time to be in the Nation went out with the Indians which pleased them much.

I have Letters from Mr. Cameron who resided as my Deputy in the Cherokee Nation, dated 5th current from Little Gallassie in the Upper Creeks, by which he informs me that about the 15th of October a Large / Body of Virginians headed by a Brigadier Lewis, had arrived in the Overhill Cherokee Towns; that the Indians were so dispirited by the number of Rebels said to be about 4000 men, that he could not prevail upon them to make a stand; but that they fled with their wives and children to the Woods, and that they had burnt many of their houses and destroyed a great part of their corn that it might not fall into the hands of the Virginians. That Lewis had offered a great reward for his Life, and had persuaded Oucommastotah to endeavor to prevail upon him to return, but that being warned by other Indians of the Trap which was laid for him, he by their advice retreated to the Creek Nation.

I sincerely wish, my Lord that Mr. Camerons arrival, and the accounts of the Distress of the Cherokees brought us by fugitives may not damp the Ardor which the Creek Indians Expressed at parting

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with me; but I hope for the best and expect hourly to^[p. 146]
be made acquainted with the result of the meeting of y^e
head men, which was to consult and determine upon
the Measures to be adopted by them, the 15th Current, and
in like manner I hope soon to hear from the Lower Creeks

About 14 Days ago I sent off a Supply of 20 horses
loaded with ammunition to be disposed of by M^r Cameron
and as he represents the great Distress of helpless Women
& Children who are perishing in the Woods for Want,
I am this Day sending off 20 horses loaded with flour,
which may save the lives of many

The great Number of Indians who have visited
me since my Arrival here not less than 1400 persons
and the necessity of keeping them in Temper and attach-
ed to His Majesty's Cause, have entirely drained me of
presents and provisions and should any accident hap-
-pen to the London ships which are to bring Supplies
for the merchants and Indian Traders, the Indians^[p. 147]
will depend upon me entirely and it will be impossible
for me to answer their Expectations, I therefore hope
and wish for your Lordships Instructions in this
difficult Situation.

The News of General Howes Success upon
Long Island had not reached, when the Indians were
with me, but I did not defer send^g of the News to the
different Nations one Moment, which I hope will have

a good Effect. I begg leave to Congratulate your Lordships
upon this Glorious event

I have received Orders from General Howe, to
cooperate with the Governours in this District and second
them in whatever they may find necessary to undertake
for the good of His Majesty's Service, either in defending
their respective Provinces in case of Invasion, or join-
ing them to invade or distress the revolted Provinces,
[118] which I shall punctually obey as far as in my Power
I have the Honour of being with the utmost
Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right Hon^{ble}

Lord George Germaine

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for America

[119] Enclosed Pensacola 24. Nov^r. 1776. / M^r. Stuart. / (N^o 12.) /

Rx 25th March 1777. / Ent^d.

N^o 13)Pensacola 23rd January 1777.

My Lord

I did myself the honour of writing your Lordship the 24th November last 47^o 11 Since which I have been honoured with your Lordships Dispatch 47^o 1 5th September: which gives me the greatest pleasure, as it relieves me from much Embarrassment, and points out the methods in which I am to draw for the Establishment and Contingencies of my Department, upon the Lords of the Treasury to which I shall pay the Greatest Attention.

I begg leave to Submit to your Lordship Copy of the paragraph in my letter to M^r. Thomas, which he considered as Authority for him to draw Bills on the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury - at the same time I begg leave to Assure your Lordship, that it never Once enter'd into my imagination that I could give him any such power, or that any Circumstance but the most urgent Exigency of the Service entrusted to my intendantscy could have justify'd myself in taking that Liberty - M^r. Thomas had always drawn upon me for the Establishment & Expenses of his District, except the annual Allowance of Rum and presents, which I usually sent him from Charles Town but upon his representation that this was attended with inconveniences to the service I meant by the inclosed paragraph to empower him to draw upon me for the whole of his Estimated fund, that

the inconveniences / which he pointed out might in future be Obviated. I begg leave to represent to your Lordship that Mr Thomas never Once Acquainted me of his having any such Intention and Several of his Bills have been presented to me for payment since my Arrival in this Province some of which I have paid.

at my return to Saint Augustine from Cape Fear Governor Towne communicated to me a paragraph in One of your Lordships letters to him Signifying an approbation of the steps taken by me by which I considered myself as highly honoured, and had it been possible to have added to my zeal for his Majesty's Service in the faithfull discharge of my Duty and Execution of the General's Orders. Nothing could have done it so Effectually as this intimation of your Lordships Approbation a continuation of which honour I shall most earnestly endeavour to merit.

After the return of Emistiquis the principal Chief of the Upper Creeks to his Nation he delivered the inclosed Message for me to Mr Cameron which he accordingly sent me, it appears by it that the fate of the Cherokee Nation had dampst their spirits what he mentions to have passed between him & a Great Warrior Alludes to some conversation which he had with Captain Mulcaster Sent here by General Clinton. When the Indians were here I was under the necessity

of giving them some hopes that they would be sup-
 ported with some troops, altho I had no Authority to
 make any such promise, and I must begg permission
 humbly to represent to your Lordships that my situa-
 -tion with respect to my Indians has been much more
 difficult than that of the Superintendant in the Northern
 District where he is near the Generals to consult with
 and receive their Instructions, and where the Indians act ^[p. 153]
 as Auxiliaries to powerfull well Disciplined Armies car-
 -rying Victory before them & Able to defend & protect their
 wives & Children in this the Southern District the Rebels
 have hitherto carried every point they aimed at, the
 Friends of Government instead of being Able to protect
 or Assist the Indians, are distressed disarmed and flying
 into every Nation for protection in such a Situation, I
 hope my Lord that having kept them steadily at-
 -tached to His Majestys Interest, when every Effort
 was made by the Rebels to debauch their minds
 and alienate their Attachment by means of their
 Commissaries will be an acceptable Service when it
 is Considered that the Rebel Agents are men former-
 -ly Employed by the Governors in transacting Busi-
 -ness with the Savages and who by that as well as
 their Connections had acquired influence with them. —
 I never encouraged a Scalping war, which would
 have fallen indiscriminately upon the innocent

defenceless & Guilty and would have proven ineffec-
tual Against an enemy who had a Collected Force
and I am Convinced that Indians by themselves will
never perform any thing great but by operating with
Troops conducted by able Leaders may be made most
usefull Instruments to reestablish His Majesty's Govern-
ment & reduce the Rebellious Provinces, notwithstand-
ing which it may be dangerous Policy to let them
remain inactive by checking their Ardor & restrain-
ing them too much. I must therefore let them some
times have their own way, and I propose to send a
party of them down to Saint Augustine to Act under
the direction, of Governor Tonn- as soon as they return
from the Woods.

All the London Ships have safely arrived and
as great a Supply of Goods gone into the Nations as ever
went in One Season, in Expectation of which I thought
right to Encourage the Indians to hunt for a few
months that they may not be entirely depending upon
Supplies from me. I have now with me about 200
Cherokees men, women & children who have been
driven from their Villages by the Rebels they are
entirely naked and destitute of every thing as they
came here through. the Creek Nation their Appearance
damp the Spirit of the Creeks.

I begg leave also to Acquaint your Lordship

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that with the Assistance which Governor Chester very
cheerfully gave me, I have got the Traders Subjected
to the Observations of Regulations for their proper be-
havior, under a considerable penalty for which they
with their Merchants are bound, which I hope will
have a good Effect & enable us to purge the Nations of
the Vagabonds who have infected them.

All the other Nations of Indians are at this
time in the woods, I have nothing respecting them to
submit. I have the honor of being with the utmost
Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right Hon^{ble}

Lord George Germain, one of His Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State &c &c }
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Endorsed Pensacola 23^d Jan^y 1777. / M^r Stuart. / (N^o 13.) /

R^x 12th May. / (2 Inclosures.) / Ent^d

[1774]
Extract of a Letter from John Stuart Esq^r To John
Thomas Esq^r dated at Charles Town 15th 4/00^r 1774

I observe what you propose with respect to
the Augmentation of your Fund and Mr Le fleurs Salary.
I am sorry to acquaint you that nothing of the kind
is in my power, being under a positive Limitation to
the Sum of £600 Sterling p^a Annum; all I can do for
you is to submit that part of your Letter to the Earl
of Dartmouth and the General and I wish they may
acquiesce in your desire, but as you observe that Sum.
-dry presents from hence is attended with considerable
Expences and often delays, I shall have no objection to
your drawing for your whole Fund of £600 after the
ensuing year —

[1777]
Endorsed Extract of a Letter / To / Jn^o Thomas Esq^r /
In Mr Stuart's (P^o 13) of / 23^d Jan^y 1777.

[Page 7]

A Talk from Comstisico to be sent to the Honble
John Stuart Esq^r and delivered to Alexander
Cameron at the little Gallarie - 19th November. 1776

I have been waiting for Mr. Taitt but as he is
not come, I shall deliver you what I have to say to
Mr. Stuart.

Mr. Stuart, and a great Warrior at pensacola.
talk'd to me when there, but I could not answer their
Talk at that time, my people as well as myself look
upon the great Thing as our Father and we hold his
Talk fast, the Warrior already mention'd told me that
he would come to the Nation with One or Two Hundred
Men, and if he will be as good as his word I am ready
to join him with my People upon his arrival, but he
must have provisions for them, When I was at pen-
sacola we all thought scotchie was still in the
Cherokee Nation, but it seems the Virginians were
so hot upon him that He and all the Cherokees were
oblig'd to run, so that you know now what is best to be
done, - I have sat quietly a long time without joining
either Party but the Virginians are now come very near
my Nation, and I do not want them to come any nearer,
When I was down there I told you that if the Red
Warriors to the Northward, would hold a Red Stick
against the Virginians there, I would hold one against

them here, - I am in great Hopes that the Great King
will fight strong and not drop the Hatchet if he should
we will be badly off, when we have nobody to assist us
but be left to fight for ourselves. - but if we begin we will
never leave off, untill we are desired by you and the Rogues
conquid I shall be glad that you would talk again to
the Chactaus to assist if requir'd but I do not ask their
assistance in a hurry, I want only the White People whom
the Warrior promid and when I see them up, I shall go
with them and I hope we shall not want for Ammu-
nition, We talk'd about sending it up by Water, if there
is a real Necessity for it. - I am still of the same way of
thinking but before it is undertaken I shall want to
know, that I may again inform my People, and shall
^[p. 162] send a strong party of them / to escort the Boats up,
if this should happen you are to allow no person to
bring up liquor or Goods to Trade, for I shall suffer
nothing to be carried by Water, but what is for the
Subsistence of the Men who will go and fight, - For my
part I am not out of Heart for I have got a strong
and able Friend the Great King and I hope He will
not involve me in Trouble, and then desert me and
leave me, when I cannot help myself, I know that
St Augustine, Pensacola & Mobile are all the places
from which we may expect assistance, and should
the Virginians get possession of these places we are ruin'd.

We have always assisted the Great King, but we never
pointed a Gun against the Virginians but now they are
the cause of all the Troubles in this Country & we are
ready for them -

I intend to set out for Hunting tomorrow morn:
ing, and upon my return should be glad to have a little
good Rum to drink, I hope you will send me one or two
Kegs I shall hunt for three Moons unless I am sent for
to return about the business that we are now talking of -
Flints were forgot to be sent with the Ammunition -

Little Gallassie

19th November 1776.

Endorsed A Talk from Omislesico / In Mr Stuart's
(No 13.) / of 23^d Jan^y 1777.

[Incl.]

[To the Lords]

N^o 14)

Pensacola 24 Jan^y 1777

[To the Lords]

My Lord

sent

To the Treasury

[I have the honour of submitting to your Lordship, a General Account of Expenses incurred in this Department from the 1st of Jan^y 1775 to the 31 December 1776 amounting to £25021. 12. 11½ Sterling, which is Accompanied with a State of my General Account, the balance of which £7400. 16. 2 I have this Day drawn bills for upon my Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in favour of M^r James Graham I have also drawn upon their Lordships in favour of said Gentleman for £4599. 3. 11 and I take the Liberty of inclosing my Letter of Advice to their Lordships for your perusal.

[To the Lords]

If my Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have been pleased to pay my bill of 23^d August and to Advance £12000 by way of Imprest to M^r Graham my Agent, agreeable to my request in such case I have directed him to give up to their Lordships the two bills which I have this day drawn, in Satisfaction of said Imprest their Amount being equal to it.

I am infinitely obliged to your Lordship for the Supply of Presents which upon your Application the Lords of the Treasury have ordered to be shipped for me, which will enable me to carry on the Service without purchasing here at such an enormous Expence, which so greatly accumulated that of this Department for the last two years.

The bherokees, & Creeks having been so long destitute of Trade, and the former prevented from hunting by the incursions of the Rebels to their Country, being incapable of purchasing; the Creeks have hitherto been and the bherokees still continue to be entirely depending upon His Majesty's Bounty, which made it necessary for me to strengthen the hands of my Deputies & Commissioners residing in the different Nations with great supplies of Ammunition provisions & Presents & I also found it necessary to increase the Number of Officers throughout the Department, which will account to your Lordship for the increased Expences of the two last years.

In the General Account of Expences my own Salary is not included, altho paid by Generals Gage and Howe up to 4 April 1776, to my Agent.

Should it become necessary to employ any Number of Indians I shall be greatly at a loss to find proper persons to conduct them; few Capable persons are to be met with here and fewer still who can be trusted what I and my Officers can do shall not be

wanting, and I beg your Lordship to be assured that
to merit the honour of His Majesty's approbation of my
conduct in discharge of the trust with which he has
honoured me is the height of my ambition I have
the honour of being with the utmost Respect.

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient most

humble servant

John Stuart

The Right hon^{ble}

One of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State &c^r

Endorsed Pensacola 24th Jan^y 1777. / W^m Stuart. / (N^o 14.) / [1776]

R^d 12th May. / (2 Inclosures.) / Ent^d

(15)

Peruacola 10th March 1777

[P. 2. 2.]

My Lord

I am now to acknowledge the Honour of your Lordships Letter No 2 dated 6th November, by the Lord Hyde Packet, which arrived here the beginning of this month

[In my former Letters I submitted to your Lordships an account of my Transactions with the Creek Indians & the fate of the Cherokee who have been severely chastised some few of them have made their Peace that they may be permitted to return to their Villages, and get some Provisions for their Starving Families, but by far the great Majority of them hold out and wish for nothing more than being joined by the Creeks and some white Leaders to act vigorously.

Whilst the principal Chiefs of the Creek Nation were with me Mr Galphin the Agent appointed by Congress found means to get down about 12 of the Cusseta Indians to his House in Carolina. The large Supplies of Goods and Ammunition poured into the Carolinas and Georgia from the French Islands enabled him to give those Indians very large presents, and to flatter them with the Prospect of a Trade; assuring them at the same time "that they could have no hopes of supplies from hence, as their armed Vessels were cruising for and had intercepted the London Ships destined to this Province" which together with the Accounts which

[P. 2. 3.]

the gawe of the Bourage Force and Success of the Rebels operated strongly on the minds of those Savages and they returned to their Village much attached to that Cause Their Story was listened to by many of the Lower Creeks & they began to form a party and to debauch the minds of many, which alarmed such of the Chiefs as were firm in His Majesty's Cause and determined to fulfill their Engagements to me. In order therefor to fix the Ballancing resolutions of their Country men they determined to strike a Blow, a Chief from the Cherokee Town went out under pretence of hunting, he continued his March to Fort Barrington on the Allakemaha where falling in with a party of the Georgia Rangers they attacked and defeated them killing four on the Spot two more were very much wounded and obliged to drop their Arms - Those Indians returned to their Nation at the very time that the Traders from hence arrived there with a plentiful supply of goods which had such an Effect & so discredited M^r Galphin's Story that the whole Nation immediately declared for Government

Your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed Extract and Copies of Talks that the Creeks are seriously Engaged The principal Chief of the upper Nation set out with between 3 & 400 men on the 12 ultimates to assist the Cherokees, a Party under the direction of a person of Confidence is gone to Saint Augustine, on

their way they will be joined by about 250 Seminolles and are to put themselves under the direction of Governor Gwyn. Other Parties are gone led by white men to scout upon the Frontiers of Georgia and watch the Motions of the Rebels, but the great Bulk of the Nation continue at home or are hunting near their Towns ready to oppose any Invasion of their Country, or to assist this Province in case of its being Attacked]

I hope my Lord that the Glorious Success of His Majesty's Arms to the Northward will divert the Attention of the Virginians from an Intended Attack upon this Province to objects more interesting to them, there is no doubt of their having a number from 3 to 400 large Canoes built upon Long Island in Holston River and they have not kept their Intention of Forcing their way through the Chickasaw Nation a Secret, their Plan is to come down Tombekby River to Attack Mobile while the united Strength of the Carolinas and Georgia are to penetrate through the Country between the Upper Creeks and Cherokees. I think they would find this Plan very difficult in the Execution, and could not be practicable without conquering all the Southern Indian Nations -

[Mr Charles Stuart is out upon a tour through the Chickasaw and Chactaw Nations and I propose Meeting their principal Chiefs at Mobile in April

and I make no doubt of being able to Attach them firmly to his Majesty's cause and to join them firmly in a confederacy with the Creeks and Cherokees.]

I submit to your Lordship copy of a Talk to the Creeks from a General M^r Intosh in Georgia which was immediately brought to me without being read to the Indians the threats contained in it and their keeping some of their People in Irons I explained to some Indians who were here when it came to hand. It has not produced the Effect which they intended it should

I have not had any Letter from General Howe lately the last I received was dated 26th August from Long Island but we have learnt of his great Success by the Jamaica & other West India papers which I never failed to communicate to the Indian Nations

As I knew the Attachment of many Persons in North Carolina to His Majesty's Government, and at the same time the Little probability of their being made acquainted with Substance of General & Lord Howes proclamation, I thought it might have a good Effect to acquaint some of them with whose Disposition and Principles I am well acquainted, of the Successes to the Northward, the Intention of the Lords Commissioners Proclamation & the disposition of the Indians, I therefore sent a trusty Person

who, I could depend upon with the Letter of which
I have the honour to submit a copy to your Lordship
I have the honour of being with profound
Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient
and most humble Servant
John Stuart

The Right honble

Lord George Germain

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies &c &c

Endorsed Pensacola 10th March 1777. / M^r. Stuart / (N^o. 15) /

Rx 26th May. / (4 Inclosures.)

[p. 215.]

Extract of a Letter from Mr David Galt to John
Stuart Esq. Dated Little Gallassie in the Creek
Nation 19th Feb. 7 1777.

Sir

On the 12th Inst. Emistisiquo set out from this
with two of the Chiefs of the Comadas and some young
fellows in order to join the Cherokees agreeable to their
desire. This afternoon I received a Letter from Emistisi-
quo from the Hillabies acquainting me that a runner
came there two nights ago from the Cherokees desiring
assistance on Account of 200 of the Rebels being set out
from Senacca towards Hightuahatchie in Order to
intercept the Traders with their goods. Emistisiquo
thinks it improper to suffer the Traders to proceed
as it would only be giving their Goods to their Enemies.
I have sent after the Traders and desired them not
to proceed untill they get an Escort of either Creeks or
Cherokees very few of the Indians were come in when
Emistisiquo set off but are now coming in very fast,
and I dare say will go after him very soon. The
Second man has just now sent a Talk to all the
upper Towns desiring the Chiefs to let their Young
people go and by no means to stop them. Cornall
set off the 11th with a few men for Saint Augustine
and the Lower Creeks sent a Talk to all the Semnolies

to go to the same place, but seem very Avers to go
thru themselves as they / Expect to be Attacked by the
Georgians, who by General M^r Fortsch's Talk seems very
Cross - I now inclose a copy of it and M^r McGillivray's
of the 15th Inst.

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from / M^r Taitt in the Upper /
Creek Nation 19th Feb^y 1777 / In M^r Stuart's (No 15) of / 10th
March 1777.

[p 217]

General M^cIntosh the Head Man of all the
Warriors belonging to the Wise Men of Georgia, sends
this Talk to his Brothers, Country Men, Warriors,
and Head Men of all the Creek Nation. -

Brothers

We in Georgia and you red men of the Creek Na-
tion are and should be one people, the same Ground
produces the corn, the deer, and the cattle that feeds us
and we look upon you as children of the same mother.
- We could wish and desire your wise men and our
wise men could join, meet and consult each other
in one council house - your warriors and our warriors
take up the Hatchet as with one hand to keep our enemies
the Red coats and people over the great water out of
our country, - they want to take our lands from us
and make you and us slaves, to cut down all the
trees and work them - they pay John Stuart, Governor
Tomlin and other bad men to tell you lies and cheat
you as they paid our Old Governor to cheat us but our
wise men knew him well, and would not believe him,
then he was afraid and run away we are sorry to
hear some of you our countrymen and Brothers, give
ear to John Stuart and other bad people. They cheated
with their eyes the Cherokees who were so foolish as to
believe them / and take up the Hatchet against their

[p 218]

Brothers and Country men the Carolinians - and now they see when it is too late, and they are drove out of their Country like a Gang of cattle and their town all destroyed, that the people over the great water cannot help them - They are too far off - their big Canoes cannot bring men enough, and those who do come can only fight within their Castles or Strong Houses and where there is clear ground the red coats loose themselves among our trees and cannot fight with us in the woods, we have been killing them and beat them at Boston, New York, Charlestown and every where else, they tried to come a shore upon our ground out of the big Canoes, near two years past until they are now tired of it and we hear they are going back again to their own Country, and leave this land all to ourselves.

Brothers

We love you and wish to make you a happy people as ourselves - Our Fathers who settled this Land first and your Fathers loved each other but we are sorry to see that some of you their Children have forgot it, altho' you and us are born in the same Country you call us Virginians - you believe all the Lies, that every bad tells you against us - Your bad people Steals our Horses Our cattle and set our Houses on fire and do every thing in their power to make us angry and take up the Hatchet against you, you well know that

we allways had great patience and tryed to forget
these things because we wished to / Continue your friends.
But now General M^cIntosh's warriors are very angry -
Three of your people have killed One of Our people and
they must have Satisfaction - Our warriors took them
prisoners and wanted to kill them but Our wise men
would not allow them to do it, but keep them in chains
until all your Head men come down to Savannah to
do it themselves - then Our Wise men will make a firm
peace with you that will last as long as the Sun
Shines or the waters Run and be ever afterwards
like one people

Brothers

General M^cIntosh himself is one of the old
people who settled this land first with Squire Ogle.
- thowpe your good friend. - he shook hands and knew
many of your forefathers, he loves you their children
and wishes for your own good that you would
hear this Talk often and think gravely upon it
and send down all the Headmen of the Creek N^o.
- tion to Savannah and sit in the Council House
with our wise men, or else he cannot keep his
warriors any Longer, from going up to your Towns
burning your barn and driving you out of your
country as the Carolinians have drove their Coun-
- try men the Cherokees away as a flock of Birds -

We have warriors enough to the Northward who have
already drove away and beat the red boats every where
and we can get them here when we please -

Savannah Georgia 23^d Decem^r 1776

To Our Brothers, Friends & Countrymen the Head
Warriors & Chiefs of the Creek Nation

Endorsed copy of a Talk from the / Rebel Gen^l M^r Intosh /
To / The Head men and / Warriors of the Creek / Nation - /
Sent by my friend / Singe / To my Brothers in the / Creek
Nation -

In M^r Stuart's (No 15) of / 10th March 1777.

[P 221]

The Cussitah Talk in the Thlaycatska Square -
 Cussitah King. Hog Lieutenant. Sockyjie Chiefs.
 Gallassie King. Escutchiabie and Impoyaffee -

I am now going to speak to my Friend and
 Father when you first arrived in Pensacola you sent
 for me & people to speak with me, which you did;
 and in my absence there was a Talk sent to my Town,
 from the Towns above, which I opposed, but on seeing
 the Arrival off all my white Men with a plentiful
 supply of Goods I found you told me truth, and my
 young People is satisfied. Now we are all of one Opinion
 to hold you fast as the Upper Creeks do, and all Red
 Nations, so it would be in vain for me, to strive against them;

I now send you a String White beads in token
 that the Path shall be White from the Cussitah Town
 to Pensacola, I hope this will be favorably received by
 you & any Talk you send us we will pay it the
 same attention -

The Virginians are daily approaching Our
 Towns I now desire that a Quantity of Ammunition,
 Paint Knives, Hatchets & Guns may be soon sent us,
 that we may be better enabled to defend ourselves in
 case of an Attack -

February 6th 1777

Endorsed copy of / A Talk from the Cussitah / Town in the
 Creek Nation / In Mr. Stuart's (c. 15) of / 10th March 1777

[P 222]

[From John Stuart]

Pensacola 9th Feb^y 1777- [p. 225]

Captains Daniel Widnar

James Macdonald

Cressian Reynard ^{jr}

Gentlemen

Having an opportunity by the Beaver I enclose it to make you acquainted with the offers contained in the inclosed Proclamation by Lord & General Howe. As the Terms proposed to those in Rebellion exhibit the most striking Instance of Clemency and Magnanimity in the hour of the most signal success and Victory.

I flatter myself that very few have been so infatuated as to neglect accepting pardon upon such easy terms, and lest such as obstinately hold out; may continue their endeavours to blind the deluded people by Falshood and misrepresentation - I hereby put it in your power to represent the Proclamation to be as it really is, the most generous forgiveness that ever was offered.

With Respect to news we learn the Rebels have been driven from all their strong holds & Lines near New York, that all their Magazines of arms Artillery Ammunition Provisions & Field equipage are taken, that M^r. Washington with the tattered remains of his Army about 5,000 Men had marched [p. 226]

to Philadelphia, that all the rest were killed taken prisoners or fled, and that General Earl Cornwallis with a strong Detachment had marched through the Jerseys and were at Trent Town upon Delaware, and General Howe was following after to join him; having left Generals Earl Percy & Robertson in strong Lines near New York. that General Clinton had embarked with a considerable Body of Troops upon a Secret Expedition under a convoy of Sir Peter Parker, in whose fleet there are six two Decked Ships, destined as supposed for Rhode Island; and that General Bourgoigne after totally defeating and destroying the Rebel Fleet on the Lakes had forced the Lines at Ticonderoga where his army were in winter Quarters. Such Success must certainly bring about a speedy Settlement and defeat the Ambitious views of wicked & Crafty Men who have involved their Country in all the Horrors of Bloodshed and devastation to get power into their own hands but I hope America will leave off pursuing a Phantome to enjoy substantial Liberty under the mild influence of the British Government and Constitution -

I need not acquaint you that every art has been practised by the Rebels to gain the Indian Nations to their Interest and to reduce them from their Allegiance and duty to His Majesty in which however I have the happiness to acquaint you they have not succeeded. Their

Encroachments on the Cherokee Lands and their pursuing the Friends of Government into their Villages The Building a Chain of Forts within a few miles of their Towns, the Cutting off all their supplies, and other great Aggravations amongst which I may mention their treatment of me and my Family, frustrated all my Endeavours to prevent their falling upon the Settlements -

I foresaw and represented to them the consequence which was very soon verified, I wanted them to remain quiet but ready to join and Act with His Majesty's Troops or other faithful subjects in the execution of some concerted plan, As they began I cannot consent to their making a peace for themselves, therefore there is a possibility of their making some further Attack upon the Settlements.

This Information I think necessary to give you as Friends of Government, that you may take your measures accordingly for your own and Friends preservation, trusting at the same time in your Loyalty and disposition to serve the Kings Cause that you will not make use of this information to its prejudice.

The unwearied endeavours of M^r Galphin to seduce & Alienate the Affections of the Creeks and draw them to join the Rebels accelerated a Creek War, the progress he made in gaining a party amongst them Alarmed such as were attached to

Government, and they judged the Alternative of Striking a Blow to be necessary in order to frustrate Mr Galphins designs; a party of them set out accordingly for the Settlements of Georgia, and near Fort Davington on the Alahatamaha, attacked a party of the Georgia Scout of whom they killed Four & Wounded Two, and by last Accounts I learn that many other Parties were preparing to follow their Example; Thus you see that by their own wretched Folly & Policy they have brought a Scalping Indian War upon themselves which I never approved of or would have been instrumental in, and is by no means agreeable to the Ideas of Government

The Information Contained in this Letter will I hope be made the most Generous use of by you for your good and that of his Majesty's Service.

I remain with sincere Regard

Gentlemen, Your most Obedient

humble Servant

P. S.

As soon as the Inhabitants of the Provinces return to their duty & Allegiance they may be assured that I can & will make Peace for them with the Indians -

[1777] Endorsed copy of Circular Letter / to Capt^l Windnar, Mr Donald / & Reynard &c in North / Carolina - / In Mr Stuart's (cl^o 15) of / 10th March 1777.

[P 91.]

Pernacola 10th March 1777

Sir,

By the Lord Hyde Packet I am honoured with the duplicate of your Letter of 1st November, the Original covering bill parcels and Invoice referred to by it is not as yet come to hand: The Supply of goods mentioned in it will I hope arrive in good time to enable me to meet and satisfy the Chactaws and Chickasaws, and engage them in a general Confederacy with the Creeks and Cherokees to act as shall be judged best for His Majesty's Service

By this Packet I direct M^r Alexander Skinner to take care of such Goods as are addressed to me at Saint Augustine, where they will be wanted as I have sent a Number of Creeks thither at Governor Fory's desire, who joined to a part of his Garrison may be advantageously employed in distressing the Rebels Another large Party of Creeks are gone off to join the Cherokees, and some Scouting parties to observe the motions of the Rebels upon the Frontiers of Georgia; but the Majority of the Nation are at home or hunting near their Towns ready to Oppose any Invasion of their Country or to give assistance to this Province which is threatened with an Attack during the Course of the Spring or the ensuing Summer, for which purpose the Rebels have prepared about 300 large

[P 92.]

Cannoes upon long Island in Holston River, with a declared Intention of forcing their way through the Chickasaw Nation to Tombigbee River and so down to Attack Mobile and this place. Mobile is not in a Situation to make any Defence, this place may do better; the Garrison is healthy and some works are thrown up which are capable of being defended against such an Enemy; but I imagine our surest dependence for safety is upon the Glorious Success of His Majestys Arms to the Northward, which will probably draw the attention of the Rebels to more interesting objects.

[The competition between me and the Rebel Agents for the friendship of the Indians has been very great. Mr Galphins Wright with the Bouetas and Cussita's lay heavy against me, and what added greatly to it was the plentiful Supplies of goods arms and Ammunition which were brought to Carolina and Georgia from the French Islands, between which and the said Provinces there has been an uninterrupted intercourse ever since the unfortunate Expedition against Charles Town.

During my Conferences with the Creeks in November and December last Mr Galphim found means of getting ten or twelve Cussita Indians to Silver Bluff to whom he gave large presents, and sent Galks by them to the Nation promising an Ample

' Supply of Goods, and assuring them that they could
" have no Trade from hence, all our London Ships be-
" ing intercepted by their Cruisers." They were listen-
ed to and began to form a party, which gave great
umbrage to our firm Friends, and determined them
to the Alternative / of striking a Blow. A Party set
out immediately from the Chehaws on pretence of
hunting, they proceeded directly to Fort Parrington
and falling in with a party of the Georgia Scout
attacked defeated and killed four of them, two more
they wounded who dropped their Rifles and Rode off
with their party which was in great confusion. Those
Indians returned to the Nation with an account of
what they had done at the very time that the Traders
from hence arrived there with a very plentiful sup-
ply of goods, which determined the whole unanims-
ly to side with us and engage in His Majesty's Cause.
Notwithstanding which, if they should ^{the Indians} be hard press-
ed by the Rebels and see no Support of Troops from us
I am apprehensive that they would attempt to make
their Peace as some of the Cherokees have done: and if
the Rebellion continues in order to reap real Advantage
from the Friendship of the Indians, it appears to me
that it will be necessary to establish posts in their
Country where Magazines of Provision arms and
ammunition may be secured and where their Wives

and children may find protection upon any Emergency.]

Population increases most rapidly upon the Mississippi many Families from Jamaica and the other Islands have settled there, Land up as high as the Natchez sells for 3 or 5 dollars per Acre. Notwithstanding which corn sells for 1/2 dollars per Bushell, at which rate I am obliged to purchase large quantities for to feed the Indians. this Scarcity is caused by the great demand for Slaves and other Lumber from the West Indies which induced the inhabitants to employ their Slaves that way rather than in planting or raising Provisions. our neighbours the French are better supplied at Orleans a Large Ship arrived there lately from Alexandria in Virginia with 2000 barrels of Flour and other provisions]

I beg leave to assure you that it will give me great pleasure to execute any of your commands in this Country as I have the honour to be respectfully

Sir / Your most obedient

humble Servant

John Stuart

William Knox Esq^r

Under Secretary, of State, for the American Department &c }

Endorsed Pensacola 10th March 1777 / W^m Stuart /
W^m K. / R^d 26th May. / Ent'd

N^o 16)

Pensacola 14 April 1777

[1777]

My Lord

I had the Honour of writing to your Lordship the 10th ultimatē 47^o 15. Since which I am not honoured with any commands from you.

I understand that the Lord Amherst Armed Ship is arrived at Jamaica but as she will probably remain there some time, and as the Chactaws and Chickasaws will be at Mobile to meet me the 24th of this month I am under the necessity of purchasing goods for presents of the Merchants here, which will amount to a considerable sum.

Mr Charles Stuart my Deputy is just returned from a Tour through the Chactaw and Chickasaw Nations. I submit to your Lordship copies of his Letters to me and of a Letter from Mr Bethune to him, by which the Situation of Affairs in those Nations will appear to your Lordship

However proper the present mode of admitting every person as a Trader into the Indian Countries who can give Security for His Good behaviour, might have been in times of Peace, I humbly submit it as my Opinion that in the present Situation of Affairs it is dangerous, as by this means the Rebels have Commis-
saries in every Nation, and nothing passes but they have intelligence of as soon as it can be conveyed.

I would wish, and it is necessary, to supply the Indians fully but at this juncture that Trade ought to be carried on by a few good men whose principles are known and of undoubted Integrity, to be subject to the inspection and orders of the Superintendants and their Officers

The Chichasaws have hitherto always behaved well, the Temper in which Mr Charles Stuart described them to be is the more surprising, I must attribute it to the Influence of some bad person amongst them this I shall endeavour to discover at the approaching meeting.

As I think it possible that my Letter No 4 from Saint Augustine may have miscarried I now submit a Duplicate - and as the Provision of Military Rank mentioned in it, has taken place in the Northern District - I humbly hope that as I am an officer of older Standing by 13 years, than Colonel Johnson, and have a Department of equal responsibility & consequence in the Management of which I have often been honoured with the Approbation of His Majesty's Ministers, Your Lordship will honour me with your Patronage in favour of my Des.

As the original has been sent by

. lions.

I have the honour of being with the utmost

Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right Honble

Lord George Germaine

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for America &c &c

Endorsed Pensacola 16th April 1777. / M^r Stuart. / (N^o 16) /

Rx 16th June / (3 Enclosures.) / Ent^d

[to John Stuart]

Copy
SixChactaw Nation 4th March 1777 [p. 25]

I arrived at Mr Belhune's house the 28th Ult^o after a journey of eleven days occasioned by Sundry accidents such as horses straying and liring I was obliged to come this way as I had hired horses that belonged to the upper Towns and could get none else - upon my arrival I was informed by Mr Belhune that the Paltican had not wintered at the Arkansas and that she had left that place about the 10th february having strengthened their party by engaging all the hunters (White) they met that he had the day I arrived sent off an Express to Mr Colbert desiring him to use his best endeavours to raise a party to intercept her which made me resolve to set out immediately for the Breed to endeavour to get a party sent after her and if to be had I make no doubt but they may yet be in time to meet her particularly if the Ice is breaking up - I have left directions with Mr Belhune with respect to the other parts of your Instructions to me which he can easily fulfill excepting that part respecting their limits and I do not know if it will be easy to get a party to scout on the River they are not yet all returned from hunting and what are are very unfit to be spoke with being constantly drunk and unless some step is taken to put a stop to this abuse we need not look for any assistance from

this nation, for at the very time they may be wanted they may be all drunk and Rum flows into their land from all Quarters and is in my Opinion the only Source of all abuses and complaints - One white man has killed another by it and another white man has killed an Indian and fled, for an Account of which I refer you to the enclosed Letter which Mr Bethune was sending down to me - I have wrote Colonel Hutchins to use his endeavours to apprehend the man (Glenmont Fenril) who shot the Indian and the inclosed will shew you the other mans Situation - I am informed here by a white man who says he saw a Letter in possession of a Gentleman on the Mississippi which mentions the Great Quantities of Gunpowder brought from the Cape in English bottoms to several British Subjects residing there and which is sold to friends and foes indiscriminately and shipped for North America it is a great pity that a small detachment cannot be spared and placed upon that River which would effectually secure the people that are there in our interest who otherwise will I am afraid join any party of the Rebels that may come there and thereby become very formidable, too much so I am afraid for the quiet of this province, had a Captains Command only been at the Natchez this boat had never passed, and the Indians would have been the more easily

got to engage in the Quarrel and so many had talks as
have been given them there would never have entered
their heads nor have been stumbling blocks now in
our way to get their assistance and if ever the Rebels
make an attempt that way the Cause Originated in
their knowing they had no difficulties to encounter
and had friends all the way, but I sincerely hope
that the Success with which His Majesty's arms have
met will divert their attention - by what I can gather
from such of the flats as I have seen I find they will
be greatly led by what measures the Freed pursue and
as soon as I have sounded that Nation I will write you
and give Mr Belknap directions as may appear to me
most conducive for the good of the Service till such time
as your pleasure is made known to me - I suppose Mr
Henry Stuart will have fully ^[p. 203] informed you of the dis-
position that prevails amongst the Inhabitants on the
Mississippi also Mr Hodge by which you can judge of
my information and Ideas of them - Please let me
know if you have time how you are provided with
Corn &c for the Congress as I will make these people
carry as much Corn and flour as they can down with them

I am / Sir

very Sincerely
Your most Obed Servt
(Signed Cha^s Stuart

PS 5th

I was to have set out yesterday, but the Indians have stole three of my horses which obliges me to set out this day without them. I have been obliged to hire two flats to shew me the way and hunt for me as Mr. McIntosh who is with me never went the road I am obliged to go to Shum Rivers

C. S ~

[F. 100] Endorsed copy of a Letter / from / Cha^s Stuart Esq^r / to the Superintendent dated / Chactaw Nation 14th March 1777 / In Mr Stuart's (P^o 16) of 14th April 1777. / (1.)

Mobile 8th April 1777-

Sir

I take the earliest opportunity of acquainting you of my return which was yesterday, I would have gone to Pensacola with Captain Connor, but I find things are not so ready for the Congress as I thought. I imagine I would be more usefull here in case any Indians come -

Your Letter of 8th Ult^o only came to hand the 28th after my return from the Breed to the Flatts - so that I had fixed the time with the former to the full of this Morn or thereabouts say 24th - and also the very morning before I received your Letter fixed the same time with the latter, so that it was out of my Power to alter it and I thought a few Days would make no great difference - but to my great surprise upon my Arrival here was told the Vessel with the Presents was not yet Arrived but was at Jamaica & hourly Expected which made me determine this morning to send of an Express to the Nation to stop them if possible at least Ten Days longer and to tell the Breed of it, who are by this time I imagine setting out from their own Land - I hope this stop will appear right I did not know but you had Presents enough before I went and that/Provisions was ^[p. 256] the only stop -

With respect to my Javert I shall say nothing

till we meet - only tell you that the Breed have behaved
very ill - not a man would go after the Boat - nor even
to keep a look out - except Five fellows who are gone to-
wards the Ohio - they are a Spoiled Nation, Proud & In-
solent - and have been most undoubtedly tampered with

You will be able to see thro' all of it at the Con-
gress should any of them come, but I do not think many
will unless they change their mind - I shall give you
a report in writing of my Tour when you come here
which I hope will be very soon. Lest they come down
and not find you here may return in a Pet. The Flats
have behaved quite the reverse and are as good as In-
dians can be who are in a manner constantly kept
in hot water by the Traders Carrying in Rum among
them for as I came thro' their Towns I saw nothing but
Rum Drinking & Women crying over the Dead bodies
of their relations who have died by Rum - but of this
more hereafter.

I left Mr. Bethune fitting out a Party of them
to go to the Mississippi with two white men. They
were exceeding willing and your old Friend Granchy
Oumaritabi small Meddal of Yason was extremely
Active & Clever upon the Occasion - but if they continue
to be supplied with Rum - no Dependence can be
put in any thing they say - for what they resolve
this Day they will break thro' Tomorrow -

I will not take up any more of your time upon this Subject at present and shall only now tell you what Provisions I have here which is only 200 Barrels of Corn in the husk Sixty Barrels of Pease - with what you sent to Mr Ward. I have also 200 Barrels of Tobacco which I sent for before I went away which if you want you shall have and I will be obliged to you for the price if not decided -

I had almost forgot to tell you that I sent a Party of Cherokee whom I met in the Breed (and who are Hunting towards the Cherokee River) to keep a Look out at that River, and give the Earliest Notice, and also sent two of them to warn a Large Party of their People who are settled at the place where your Brother was Attacked - there are 5 or 6 Towns settled there - and the Dragging Canoe is there. ^[p. 258] I was told he was gone to Pensacola for Ammunition - Be so good as endeavour to learn what is become of Capt Guest who went up with your Brother -

Forneret has got the Indian House repaired and has ordered a hundred higgs & other things agreeable to your Letter - please let me know any thing else you wish done and if a 100 Higgs will be enough - as Rum is a bad Article

I think if you give any it shoud only be to
Principal Ships Excuse haste & believe me to be
Sir

Your most ob^t

humble servant

(signed) Charles Stuart

For Stuart Esq

Endorsed copy of a Letter from Charles Stuart Esq^r/
2nd Apr^l 1777, In Mr Stuart's (No 15) of 14th April 1777.
(2.)

(loopy)

Paduwater 25th Feb 7 1777

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your three several favours of 20th & 25th Ultimate -

I have been kept in continual alarm ever since I wrote you last by quarrels 'twixt Indians and Traders. One Joseph Pralton Trader at Okacopula came to me on the 25th Janu'y & told me he had killed an Indian who had attempted to break open his house, he said he was sure he must die for it but would rather choose to be put to death by white people than by Indians, and therefore came to deliver himself up. Next morning an Indian from Barlasahas came to my house with a hatchet in his hand, and told him he had come to kill him Pralton - As I imagined it would be a bad precedent to suffer the Indians to take satisfaction in their own hands particularly as Pralton had delivered himself up to me I interposed, snatched the hatchet from the Indian telling him I was to send Pralton to Pensacola where satisfaction would be given. I sent to Conjito for Perhamo the only chief at home, & sent him to Okacopula with a Talk to the Friends of the fellow Pralton had beat telling them that Pralton was then Prisoner to be sent to Pensacola & that they must not attempt to take satisfaction in their own hands as the white people would

give them Satisfaction in their own Land - he returned next day and told me the Indian was severely beat but would recover which he has since done -

Three days after I was informed by one Allie^{may} -
via an Indian returned from hunting, that one Clement Fennel who was all Winter hunting and Beaver catch-
ing having got some rum from the Mississippi quar-
rel'd with an Indian when drunk and shot him
in the Groin, he immediately made off for the Missis-
sippi - the Indian is not yet dead but continues very
ill refusing any manner of Assistance, I have wrote
Capt Bloomart and in his Absence to any of His
Majesty's Justices of the Peace on the River to secure
Fennel lest some innocent man may suffer for him -

One Jacob Steel who Arrived 4 days since from
the Mississippi Informed me that the Rebel Battal-
ion that loaded with Powder at New Orleans Wintered
at Os Ark, and only set out from there about 3 Weeks
since having reinforced themselves with about 30 Men
they picked up on the River, this acc^t was Confirmed by
[P. 11] one Daas who Arrived at Yarrow next day, on his way
to the Chickasaws, intended to have taken his Informa-
tion in Writing, but having no paper there he promised
to wait for me till 11 o'clock next day by which time I
could have wrote Mr Colbert, but an unhappy Acci-
dent that happened that night at Yarrow made him

set off next morning by day light, which made
me hire an Indian to carry a letter to Mr Bollert
of which the enclosed is a copy.

One Holland (who lived for some years
past in this Nation without any visible means
of support as he neither traded nor was hired
by any person, but was really a pest to the
Traders & Indians stealing their horses quarrel-
ling with them when they refused to entertain
him beating and googing them in a shocking
manner) came to Alex^r Fraser's house at Hazon
on Tuesday last where I happened to be -
Fraser in my hearing desired him several times
to leave his House, which the other declined
doing - I returned home and was informed
next morning that Fraser and Holland had
been quarrell'd; fought - Holland Bitt Fraser in
several places and attempted to googe him, up-
on which Fraser cleared himself rushed into
the house snatched an Indians Gun & fired at
Holland. The Gun was! loaded with small shot^[shot]
which lodged all in Hollands right hip except
2 grains that lodged about an Inch higher in
a straight line about 4 Inches separate -
Holland went into an Indian hott house where
he lay upon a babin better than an hour and

then fell off and died; Fraser sent for me early next morning, and for all the Traders about to inspect the Body - Upon turning it over there Issued from the Mouth a great discharge of blood & Matter - Fraser continues at his House as it would effectually ruin him to go down to Pensacola in the heat of Trade. but is willing to take his trial at the Sessions so that the Attorney General may be acquainted with the Affair to prepare an Indictment against him -

If you or any person that is acquainted with the River think it possible that I could yet overtake the Baltoe I have not the least doubt but I can raise a sufficient Number of Red & White men to accompany me should Mr. Colbert not be able to raise a sufficient Number but in this event you'll please send me some Ammunition immediately -

The great quantities of rum carried into the Nation have been the cause of all the accidents that have happened & will be the cause of many worse if not speedily stopt, and of much disquiet and uneasiness to me or any Person who Act in the Nation, I have tried an Indian to carry this and promised him a Gun & shirt French turnstoby found me the fellow and says he

hopes he will not be thought light off

I am with great regard

Sir

Your most Obedient

& most humble servant

(Signed) *Georg: Belknap*

Charles Stuart Esq:

Endorsed copy / of a Letter from Mr Belknap / to
Mr Charles Stuart Deputy / Superintendant dated
25 Feb^r / 1777 / In Mr Stuart's (No 16) of / 14th April
1777 / (3) / d:

N^o 17

Pensacola 14th June 1777

[E 1007]

My Lord

Upon the 12th instant I returned to this place from Mobile, where I had appointed a meeting of the Chactaws about the beginning of May. They were very punctual to their time and about 2000 of them attended, with a Deputation of about 40 Chickasaws sent by their Nation.

A Minute account of all that passed would be very tedious and uninteresting to your Lordship I hope therefore it will be as acceptable to be made acquainted with the substance of our Conference.

I have the Honour of submitting to your Lordship a Copy of what I recommended to them at first meeting; After which the Chickasaws took the Lead and their Chief Tashastpaye made a spirited Speech in which he enumerated all the Advantages and Benefits which the Indians derived from the Protection of the great King; he represented the Obligations they lay under from Principles of Interest as well as Gratitude to Venture their Lives in His Cause. He desired that they would not impute to any backwardness or disaffection in his Nation, so few of their People having attended / the Meeting which proceeded from their having Intelligence that a great number of Battesons were prepared upon Holston River to transport a Body of People down the Cherokee River; he said that the Rebels

might possibly attempt to get a footing upon the Chickasaw Land, and that his Nation thought it prudent to remain at home to defend their Country which they were determined to do to the last extremity. He lastly recommended to them to unite with the Indian Tribes in this District as one people, in Defence of each other, and to determine like men upon spilling their last Blood in His Majesty's Cause where required. This Speech delivered with all the Expression of bountenance and Action peculiar to Indians was received with a peal of Applause. The Chactaw principal Chief immediately started up, and seconded the Chickasaw, he concluded with saying, that the Chickasaws were their elder Brothers that he would follow them while they continued in the right path, but if ever they should turn out of it not to expect that he would follow their Example, for that he had embraced the King's Cause and would never separate himself from it."

A Repetition of the same sentiments finished the Conference of the first Day

At our Subsequent meetings the Indians complained much of the unlimited importation of Rum to their Nations and represented the Miseries occasioned by it in moving terms; One of the principal Chactaw Chiefs said, that he had lost above a thousand of his people by Excessive drinking / in little more than 18 months, and that a total Extirpation of their Nation

must be the consequence of this destructive Traffick if it cannot be stopped. He entreated in the most earnest manner my Endeavours to redress this Grievance "and if you succeed added he, you will well deserve to be for ever lookt upon as our Father and Benefactor".

The Chiefs of both Nations complained that the Rebels had Commissioners amongst them in the Charge: of Drivers and Packhorsemen, who were indefatigable in counteracting the Commissioners and other Officers of my Department and in endeavouring to instill into the minds of their young people principles favourable to the Rebels. They represented that the Connections of such People with the Indians and their Knowledge of the Indian Language put it in their power to do much harm without being detected. I answered that I would instruct the Commissioners to be most attentive not to suffer any Person to continue in the Indian Country, without producing a Licence from the Governor, and a Certificate of his having given Security for the observation of the Regulations agreed upon; and that I should strengthen their hands to enable them to execute my Orders, which I hoped might in some measure limit the importation of Rum and purge their Nations of many Vagabonds and Rebel Commissioners; at the same time I gave them to understand that I expected their Assistance to the Commissioners whenever

demand.

I embraced the Opportunity of Ascertaining the Claims of the Chactaws to the Westward of this Province and determining a Line to be marked some time in November next, and the Indians agreed to the Boundary exactly as marked upon the Map which I had the honour of Submitting to your Lordship, and I now submit a copy of the Deed of Cession.

This meeting was very expensive they had larger presents than usual particularly in the Articles of Arms and Ammunition. I had the pleasure of Dismissing them very well satisfied on the 5 Instant, after furnishing them with provisions for their Journey.

It appears from an account lately taken by Mr Pelhume Commissary who for that purpose was directed by me to make a progress through all their Villages, that the Chactaw Nation consists of at least 2400 men fit to bear arms. I have a Party of them posted on the Mississippi to watch the motions of the Rebels and give Intelligence if they discover any number of Batteaux coming down the River and they have agreed to keep a Body in readiness to go to the Assistance of the Chickasaws or Creeks in case either of them should be attacked.

Some time ago Governor Gonyer required of Mr Galt, to march a Body of Creek Indians to his

Assistance as Saint Augustine was in Danger of being attacked by the Rebels, at the same time requiring of him to Invade Georgia with the Bulk of the Nation, Upon the Occasion Mr Galt wrote me and sent me Copies of Governor Troup's Letter and of His Answer, which I forwarded to Governor Chester / from Mobile who acquaints me that he has submitted Copies of them to your Lordship, and to which I must begg Leave to refer your Lordship, as the Governor has not as yet returned the Originals to me. [p. 297]

I begg leave to represent to your Lordship that there is such a scarcity of Provisions in the Creek Nation as borders upon a Famine. In such Circumstances the impossibility of Subsisting any Considerable Body of men, upon a march of three or four hundred Miles through an uncultivated desert Country will appear to your Lordship, to be an insurmountable Obstacle. In my former Letters I had the honour of submitting to your Lordship my Opinion, that nothing could be expected from Indians when acting by themselves but incursions in Small Scalping Parties, and this sort of War they have constantly been employed in, which has served to harass and draw the Attention of the Rebels to their Frontiers.

The fate of the Cherokees is constantly before the

Eyes of the other Indian Nations and damps their Spirits, and the Rebel Secret Commissioners among the Traders and packhousemen keep them in a constant panic by telling them of great armies coming to attack them from every quarter upon which account they will not leave their Villages and Families unguarded. Your Lordship will be enabled to form an Idea of their Temper and Disposition from the copy of Mr Gait's Letter which I have the honour of Submitting it is dated the 6th Inst. start, and I can venture to promise for the Creeks as well as the other Tribes, that they will readily join in assisting a Body of His Majesty's Troops, should the General determine upon extending His Operations to the Southward

The distressed Situation of the Cherokees has been beyond Description. Driven from their Habitations and wandering about destitute of cloaths and provisions, many of them perished Their hopes and Dependence were upon me; but at the Distance of Six or Seven hundred Miles, it would have been impossible for me to have relieved them upon packhorses through a wild mountainous Country, if I could have found provisions and every necessary in plenty: but the reverse is truth, for without Supplies from some part or other arrive soon, a Famine will be inevitable here. Under such a complicated State of distress and misery many of them have been obliged to listen

to the Overtures made by the Virginians, and agree to a Neutrality; Some more determined hold out and say that they never will drop the hatchet until I take it out of their hands - A great many of them are in the Creek Nation with Mr. Cameron and others have built Villages near the Chickasaws. I inclose for Your Lordships perusal copies of Letters and Talks sent them by Mr. Henry Rebel Governor of Virginia and his Officers, Some of the principal Chief went to Williamsburgh and the Rebels have some agents in the Nation, notwithstanding which they send me assurances that whenever an opportunity offers they will act for the Service of Government.

I found that the Chickasaws had been tampered with I detected one Holder, and confined him to the Fort at Mobile but he found means to make his Escape. I have however the strongest Assurances of Attachment to His Majesty's Cause / from the whole Nation assembled in Council, they have applied to me for a supply of Ammunition and have fortified their Villages determined to Oppose the Rebels should they attempt a passage through their Country

The Upper Creek Nation is at too great a Distance from Saint Augustine to send Governor Henry any assistance but I hope he will have a considerable party of Lower and Seminolie Creeks.

From the above state of Indian Affairs I hope
it will appear to your Lordship, that I have not been
unattentive to my Duty and that considering Circum-
stances and the Situation of Affairs to the Southward,
The Nations are as well disposed as could have been ex-
pected, and if my Endeavours give Satisfaction & meet
your Approbation I shall esteem myself very happy

I have the honour of being with the utmost
Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's

most obedient and

most humble Servant

John Stuart

The Right Hon^{ble}

Lord George Germain

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State &c^o

Endorsed Pennacola 14th June 1777 / Mr. John Stuart /
Superintendent of Indian Affairs / (N^o 17) / Rd 26th Sept
1777 / (6 Inclosures) / End^d

Page 2

I am very glad to see so good and great a Man as my Brother the Beloved Raven at this Place, and also to hear that his sentiments are friendly towards Virginia - The agreement I made with the Great Warrior at Chote, was not for the great men of the Cherokees to talk here with me but to come in and go to Williamsburg there to talk with the Governor and the other head men there. I promised to conduct your People safe there and back again here or further if necessary. At the time I expected your Warriors I sent some good men to meet them and conduct them to my house, and then I would have taken them to Williamsburg. I can say but little here the Governor and great men at Williamsburg are to settle every other thing that I did not settle when I was at the Towns -

When I was sent with an army against the Cherokees, it was not the wish of the great men that sent me, that I should destroy the Towns that were willing to be at peace, we wanted nothing your people had, but what they took from us, you lived in the same land with us and we only wanted to shew you that you were wrong and to convince you that we could go where we pleased and could not be stopped. We did not want to hurt your Women your children or your old people, nor any others but them

that would fight us? When they run away we did not follow, we expected that your people would then see their error & do so no more. I burnt the Canoes Town because he begun the War, I burnt Chilhowey because their people did not send the Hostages that was promised by their two Warriors that were present at the Treaty, and I told them that I would burnt it if they did not keep their word, They could have done it because there were people near Chilhowey, I did not blame the Great Warrior because he had no people at Chole. I took pity on your families and the helpless ones and spared a great many of your Towns. I pitied you because Cameron deceived you, and I wished to sell you right. If you will look at the articles of the Treaty and my letters you will see that there is no agreement to have any Talk here; But as your people has not come in so soon as I expected, I am very glad to see yourself and to hear your Brotherly Sentiments. If any of your people are of a bad way of thinking they will ^{be} sorry for it if they do not change their opinion; and they will all see that you are in the Right; It is a pity that you cant go now to Williamsburg to talk with the great Men there and see how every thing is, I can assure you that all the great men there wishes to be at peace with your people and live as Brothers with them. This I can tell you and I

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flatter myself that all your people can now believe
what I say & depend upon it as truth

I wrote to Ounastolah that if your people
would come in and go to Williamsburg and confirm
the peace that as soon as they come back here I had
authority to supply your needy Towns with Flour, and
that I would meet here to do it

It would be well if your people could come
in soon to go to Williamsburg and you can tell me when
you think they can be here. The Commanding Officer
here will conduct them untill I meet them and I will
go with them to Williamsburg and then they will see
and be able to judge as well about supplies of goods
as every thing else - It will be good for Warriors to
come from every Town to carry back the Talkers. The
sooner you send in /all the horses that can be had, the
better as the poor people want them

Mind well my Brother

Your people should hear no Talk from the
Hings people about us. I dont want to give you any
Talk about them at all, only not to be persuaded by
them to make war on us and ruin yourselves. You
can buy the Traders goods that are there but dont
hear their discourse about any other thing. Your best
way is to lye still and lett the white people fight
out their dispute there is no danger of your getting goods,

and being quiet wont prevent your getting them, but be the best means to gett them, If the Kings people want you to help them it is a Sign that they are weak and in a bad way, tell them you have suffered by it already and will lye still & not concern - Take Notice Brother

If any of your Towns break off and are trouble. some dont lett that hinder those that are friends from sending in warriors to go to Williamsburg, Those who behave ill will be punished, and others not - This you know you have seen once already - The white men who have been friends to Virginia have also been your friends they have all done what they could to save your Towns, and people therefore I expect you will take care that they are not hurt, You have seen the great good they have done your people and may still do more

As I told you before it was never intended to have any treaty here so that I only rode up here in great haste to see, and could not have anything for you here

Observe that the Man I send is not to Talk I only send him to bring me word when your Warriors are coming in and for you to send us a runner I give you a string of beads for each Town assuring all your people of the Virginians great desire to be Brothers with the Cherokeees - If your people will not all join the peace the great Warrior made for them but will be troublesome, then tell them that I have

given them the offer of the Friendship of Virginia and
if they wont accept of it lett them blame themselves
hereafter when ruin overtakes them and not blame us

When you and your Warriors setts off to
come/in to go and see the Governor and Great men at ^[Page 7]
Williamsburg lett one of the White men come off and
tell the Commanding officer here who will meet them
and conduct them safe to me

Tell your people to remember the promises
made by the Great Warriors, their honor depends much
on complying with this agreement

I find there is no one here to interpret what
I have said I give you this paper and when you go
home you can have it interpreted by some honest
man who will tell the truth

I am your Brother

Signed William Christian.

Fort Patrick Henry 1777 Jan^{ry} 19

Endorsed 19th Jan^{ry} 1777 / Fort Patrick Henry / copy / of ^[Page 7]
W^m Christian, a Rebell^{Colonel}, Talks to / the Raven a Cherokee
/ Chief / In W^m Stuart's (d^o 17) of / 14th June 1777.

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Friends & Brothers of the Chickasaw & Choctaw Nations

After five Years Absence I now with much pleasure meet you again, and take fast hold of your hands - I can with truth assure you, that altho absent and far distant from you I never forgot you - Your wellfare has been the constant object of my Attention - I am now come to meet you with a disposition to renew and if possible to strengthen that friendship which has so long subsisted between the Great Kings faithfull Subjects & your Nation - It is with the utmost concern that I am obliged to make a distinction in mentioning your white Brethren - When I talked to you last, I knew no distinction and recommended to you to consider all his Majesty's Subjects as your Friends and Brothers - But the present situation of Affairs unhappily renders such Sentiments improper - The People of America have forgotten their Duty to the King they have withdrawn themselves from their dependance upon Great Britain, and have taken up Arms to oppose the Kings Authority - They have persecuted and distressed such of the Kings faithfull Subjects as refused to join them in their Rebellion, and either killed imprisoned or obliged them to desert their Houses and Families and fly for Protection into the Indian Nations - In this Dispute I have also been a great sufferer - with great

difficultly I escaped with my Life my wife and Family were imprisoned many months - my Effects have been confiscated and sold, and in Every respect they distressed and persecuted me, and all this because I am your Friend.

Now my Children & Friends Listen to me - Your Interest and Welfare are the perpetual Objects of my care and attention - The Great King your Protector has been graciously pleased to appoint me to take care of you - You have known me for many years; it has been my Constant Endeavour to lead you in the Straight path and hinder you from going Wrong. There never was a time when it was more necessary to be plain and explicit with you than the present; when bad men from every quarter are endeavouring to poison your minds and blind you - I have already told you that the Provinces in America have revolted and are in actual Rebellion against their King - To enter particularly upon the Causes of this Rebellion would be too much at Present - I shall only tell you that your Interests are materially and very capitally concerned - All the Indian Nations know with how much pains and trouble the Superintendants by the Great Kings order and Authority, settled Boundaries by Treaties and marked Lines to prevent encroachments on their Land - Yet while the Americans acknowledged

the King's Authority it required all the Force of the Laws and the greatest Vigilance on our parts to preserve your Lands - and in the Cherokee hunting Grounds, all proved ineffectual - This was one of the principal Motives which induced the Cherokees to take up the Hatchet - and as it is the declared Intention of the Rebels to possess themselves of your Lands, it also becomes your Duty and Interest, to unite yourself with other Nations for your mutual Defence and protection, and to attach yourselves firmly to the great King's Cause, to whose Goodness and Protection you have been and are so much indebted - I therefore warn you not to pay any attention to the Stories and Insinuations of bad designing men who go amongst you, if you do they will deceive and lead you to your ruin - my Deputies and Commissioners are in your Nation whose sole Business is to advise and direct you - They can have no Interest in imposing upon you - They live in your Country, by the great King's order for your Advantage and Happiness - therefore Listen to them & them only - and when the four great Nations to the Southward are unanimous and united as one People having the same Objects in View - making the Defence of their Country and the Liberty of their Wives and Children a common Cause what can hurt them? Gratitude and every principle which can actuate Good Men and generous Warriors must influence and point out your conduct upon the Present occasion,

and show you that it is your Interest and Duty to write in the name of the great King to whose Powerfull Protection you are indebted for every blessing you enjoy.

The Rebel Agents and some Worthless Traders amongst you, as well as other designing Enemies of the Great King & you, advise you to sitt still and remain unactive Spectators of the present Rebellion - Nothing can be more Insidious than this Advice, What would be the consequence of such conduct in you - The Indian Nations attacked Separately, would easily fall a prey to the Force of the Rebels / whereas united they will be formidable and able to repell a great Force.

It is certain that Boats have been for a long time preparing to carry a Body of Rebels from the back parts of N. Carolina and Virginia, down the Cherokee River. It is probable that they will endeavour to get a footing on the Chickasaw Land, or to force their way to this Place by Tombekby River; if you suffer either to happen you are a lost People - If the Chickasaws and you suffer them to get a Footing on Your Lands, your Country will soon be overrun by them, and when they get the better of you they will enslave you and your Families as they have the Wives & Children of the Cherokees who fell into their hands. You may suffer them to pass through your Country to attack this Province, unmolested; If you do, it is probable they will fail in

the Attempt and be repulsed by the Kings Troops: but you can never afterwards be entitled to the Great King's favour and Protection, and cannot expect that Traders will be suffered to go amongst you, and if they do succeed in such an Attempt and Conquer the Province, what then will become of you? Where will you be supplied with Arms Ammunition & all sorts of necessaries The Rebels cannot supply you, you must be miserable and naked. But if this should happen you are not to flatter yourselves with the Hopes of being suffered to enjoy your Country & Liberty. You may judge what the Consequence will be when I assure you that they want your Lands, which they will take from you if they can.

Lying Reports have been spread amongst you that the French are going to take possession of this Country again, and that you and the Country were only lent to the English for a few years - I hope you are men of too much understanding to believe this Absurd Story; could the French have protested you and kept this Country. They never would have abandoned Either - At present I know of no war between us and the French or Spaniards; the Report must therefore have been propagated by designing Knaves, who want to impose upon you, and cannot have come from the Governor of New Orleans or any Person in Authority - I now recommend to you great Chiefs, that whenever any Report of this

Don't Get Ground, you will without Loss of time Commun-
icate it to the Commissary residing in your Nation, that
he may trace it to the source & punish the Author of it
My Children & Friends Great Chiefs

I must recommend to you in the strongest man-
ner to use all your power and Influence to restrain
your People and young men, from Plundering the Inha-
bitants of the Settlements and killing their cattle steal-
ing & drawing away their Horses. These are acts in-
consistent with Peace and Friendship and may be
productive of very bad consequences they are contrary
to Treaties, and the repeated Engagements which you have
entered into. On our part you may be assured that
Every possible act of Justice shall be done you, & the greatest
Attention paid to your Well founded Complaints

I am now to acquaint you that altho it was
late in August before the Kings Forces began the last
Campaign to the Northward, their Success was great beyond
Expectation, They have got Possession of New York Rhode
Island & many other important places, wherever they
engaged the Rebels they proved Victorious. I can assure
you that all the Indian Nations to the Northward are ready
to join them and all the Nations on the Continent look to
you and are in Expectation of your doing the same
My Friends

I hope you have listened with Attention to what

I have said, and that you are convinced that it is your Interest & Duty to yourselves to Oppose any Invasion of this Province or of the Neighbouring Nations by the Rebels. I was frequently applied to by your Nation and also by the Creeks, to Mediate between you and put an end to the Bloodshed caused by your quarrel; this I did twice but your own people & the Creeks spoiled the Path again; but upon the breaking out of the present Rebellion and seeing my Indians in so much Danger, I again endeavoured to compose your differences and make peace between you. I was unwearied in sending Messages and Talks, and at last I had the Pleasure of seeing you shake hands together. You can now join and Support each other like one People which is your Interest and duty to do. It is the Interest and Duty of all the Nations to join like one People to support themselves and Oppose the Enemies of the Great King to whose Protection they are indebted for their Trade & every other advantage they enjoy

J. S

Mobile 14th May 1777

Endorsed The Superintendants Speech / to the Chactaws & Chickasaws / at Mobile in Congress the / 14th May 1777 / In M^r Stuart's (N^o 117) of / 14th June 1777.

Little Gallatin 5th June 1777

Sir

On the 30th ult^o the Chiefs and head Warriors of the upper Creeks met at this place and immediately sent off one of their Warriors with a Talk and some Tobacco for the Handsome fellow in order to bring him back but I believe the Messenger did not Succeed as neither he nor the handsome fellow is returned the latter is so obstinate that he must have his own way and the rest of the Chiefs Care very little about him, they came to a determination of sending out a large body of their people against Georgia next month or as soon as their Green Corn dance is over and that they can get something to Subsist upon, after the meeting was broke up Alexander Mc Gillivray arrived from the lower Creeks with a message from Sampoyaffie and the Chiefs of the Cowetas requiring the mad dog to get the Warriors of Yuckabatchie Savannah Coosada and Oakeshoys Towns to send out more immediately to their assistance against the Settlements of Georgia the mad dog being here when Mr Mc Gillivray Came next morning after Consulting with Emistisiquis sat out for Coosada where he met the Chiefs of the Alibarnas, Tuskegee and Coosada they agreed to join him whenever he was ready to lead them and he afterwards proceeded to the Savannahs who also agreed to go with him and afterwards went home to

the Tuckabatchie to muster his own people and is to return to let me know at what time he will lead these men out his design is to carry out what he can in a Body and afterwards disperse in small parties along the frontier in Order to keep the Georgians in ^[in 1792] play/ untill the main body of the Nation can turn out this is what is at present determined on but will not take upon me to assure you of their performing any thing - The Cowetas went to the head of little River, near the Buglaick near which place is three forts for the protection of the Inhabitants, they went to the middle fort about Twelve o'clock and there waited for some time Consulting whether they should attack the fort or not. the Cherokee that were with them advised them not to attack it alledging that it would answer no good purpose and that they would expose their men to be killed and fire away their powder and Bullets for nothing, the old men of the Cowetas were of the same opinion but their young men seemed eager to attack. at last the Cherokees Separated from them in Order to go further into the Settlements but had not gone far before they heard some firing which caused them to return thinking that the Rebels had discovered the Indians lay, the young fellows seeing them so near could not be restrained from firing at them one of the white men run to a house near the fort and got

in the other fell before he reached the house. One of
Sempoyaffie's nephews was killed by the people in the fort
and the Twins Son and another headman wounded
the former shot below the right Breast and out at his
back bone the latter slightly under the arm pit both I
believe are brought home, next day they shot another
white Man going into the fort they burned the house
over the wounded man and brought off the hair of
the one that fell on the out side of it this however will be
a means of forcing all the others to join them and at
present they seem in great spirit -/ The chiefs at the ^[p 395]
meeting desired to know if you had sent the Northward
belt with their tokens through the Chactaws and Chicka-
saws to be forwarded through the different nations on
the Mississippi and Ohio untill it returns to the nation
from whence it came with the Tokens of the different
nations that takes hold of it if it is not already sent they
desire Sir that you will immediately forward it as they
mean to send in the Shawnee Warrior to the Northward
nations to see how they stand affected and what part
they have taken in the present dispute and to inquire
after some young men and women belonging to the
Oakfuske that were carried off this winter from the
north side of the Cherokee River, they desire Sir that
you will be pleased to write Colonel Johnston about
this matter and if he can get their people delivered up

they are willing to deliver up a Woman belonging to the
Yvitauees that was brought in here about four years ago,
should their people be in the same nation they likewise
beg that you will please get some people that are settled
above the line near Tanahaba removed as soon as possi-
ble that good harmony may be kept up between them
and the settlers in West Florida this application they
make to their King and Father that these people who
have seated themselves may remove peaceably for fear
that some of their young men may rob them -

Some days ago an Ottarey fellow came here to
excuse himself for Robbing Oates on this side the Bay
alleging for his excuse that Oates traded with the
Indians for horses and Skins Contrary to the agree-
ment made at ^[136] Last Treaty at Pensacola by which
means the Indians were encouraged to carry not only
their own but their Traders horses to Sell and likewise
the Skins that they ought to pay their debts to their
Traders with, I represented to the fellow that Oates was
settled within the line and if he was Trading a Com-
plaint should have been made to the Governor at
Pensacola the fellow seemed sorry for what he had done
and promised to deliver up some horses he brought up
and what things he could get he says the party took
about 16 Shirts and a few knives and three horses, he
blames Baillie for desiring him to Rob Oates, Baillie did

very wrong in doing so but these people on the Bay and
about Escambia does great mischief here by their trading
with the Indians and drawing them down about the
Settlements, I have mentioned to the Chiefs the Number of
Visiting Indians who constantly plague you who say
that it is not in their power to stop their people while
such a trade in Rum is Carried on about Pensacola
they even desired of me to beg of you not to take any
notice of their people that went a begging for it was
destroying their authority and rendering them incap-
able of performing their engagement to you and begged
that an entire stop may be put to the Rum trade by
the merchants and Settlers about Pensacola, I have
often mentioned this matter before and must now
beg leave to observe that unless some Effectual
method is taken to prevent such a hurtfull trade
nothing need be expected from the Indians here
for they are every day drunk and drinking Rum
wounding and killing one another, neglecting their
hunting and planting, in short nothing but going
to Pensacola is heard from them. / I am often im-
-portuned for papers to you but always decline giv-
-ing any - I am extremely sorry to hear you are so
much indisposed but hope that the Change of Air
from Mobile to Pensacola will have the good Effect
of restoring you to health again as Mr Cameron

writes by this conveyance I shall refer you to him for
Cherokee intelligence. I have the honor to be with the
greatest respect

Sir

Your most obed^t

Humble Servant

(Signed) David Gaith

John Stuart Esq^r

¹⁷⁷⁷ Endorsed copy of a Letter from / David Gaith Esq^r /
dated Little Gallanie / 5th June 1777 / In Mr Stuart's Letter /
(c.p. 17) of 14 June 1777.

Brother Oconostota

Colonel Nathaniel Gist one of our Generals War Captains will deliver you this Talk Receive him kindly and use him well

I expect that you and your Warriors & head men will not fail to meet Colonel Christian, Col: Preston and Col: Shelly at the Fort near the great Island to confirm the peace. In order to show you and your Nation the friendship of the Virginians towards them and of our desire to strengthen the chain of friendship with you, I assure you that the Cherokeees shall be considered as intitled to the protection of Virginia. If any Nation or people shall strike you or your people, let me know it, and the Virginia Warriors shall march to your assistance and help you to take vengeance on your Enemies, If you or your people shall stand in need of Provisions, Powder salt or any thing else you shall be furnished with it. If your old men, Women or children shall be in danger in their Towns let them come into our country and we will take them into our houses and build Forts for them either in our country or in yours to keep them from being hurt

Brother Listen Well

I have now made you the offer of the Friendship of all the People of Virginia. If you accept of it we shall all live happy and become one people with you. But if you listen to bad Talks our Warriors will again

carry the War into your country and spare nothing
you have or any of your people I shall be sorry for it;
but I have offered you friendship first, don't refuse it
but let us be friends

Brother Oconostota

The Council of Headmen who preside over all
Virginia have agreed to this letter and advise me to
send it to you I have written it with my own hand
and hope you will give your answer to our Commis-
sioners at the Fort. If the Dragging Canoe or any
one else of your people who are afraid will come in
& be friendly our people have orders not to hurt them
[p 221] but will receive them well and make peace with them
Farewell Brother

Signed P. Henry Jr
3^d March 1777

[p 222] Endorsed 3^d march 1777 / copy of / P. Henrys / Talk to
Oconostota / Chief of the Cherokee / In W^m Stuarth's (N^o 17) of /
14th June 1777.

Copy of a Talk from Nathl Gist to Oconastota
 Raven, Dragging canoe and Tassel

Brothers

When I parted with you last I promised to be back before cold weather was done and according to your desire have spoke to the great Warriors of the American States for peace for you and now send by one of your own people some of the Talks they gave me and have several more good Talks to give when you come to this place to treat - I also now send you two Strings of Wampum that was delivered me by the delawares and Shawanese for the Cherokee, desiring that they would no more listen to the lying bad Talks carried you by some of their foolish people and the mingoes, for that the delawares and Shawanese had brightened the Chain of friendship with Virginia, have taken them by the hand and will for ever live as brothers and be as one people and that whoever is enemies to the American States they will esteem as their enemies and will go to War with them accordingly -

Two Strings of Wampum

Brothers

Immediately after I left the Cherokee country last Fall I set out and travelled Northwardly as far as New York during my journey I had an opportunity

of seeing and talking with many great Council men
and Warriors of America and now know their hearts
is good to all the Red people their Neighbours if it is not
their own fault — At last near New York I met with
my old friend General Washington at the head of a great Army
saw great numbers of prisoners he had taken of the people
over the great Water at war with us and know that
the King during the cold Weather has lost four thou-
sand five hundred men near New York before I left
that and I do think they are all killed and taken before
now as they were then surrounded in a little spot starv-
ing for bread and begging for peace —

All my Brothers listen attentively

I saw the great English Warriors Letter to
General Washington begging peace as the French
and Spaniards had begun a War over the great
Water and that their Ships must go home to fight
and save the Country where the King lives —

Brothers

If you now mind well what I say all may
be well with you yet. I see plenty of powder, Lead
and other goods in Virginia and you may get enough
after the peace is Confirmed and I think I can get
the white people to forgive the Murder you committed
the last Winter as I hope it was done by some foolish
Young men Contrary to the advice of the Head men.

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You know all particularly my Comrade the Dragging
Canoe that what I advised last year before you went to
War was for your good, and would have saved the
lives of many of your people, and saved your Towns
from being destroyed ~

Now I again tell you this year it will be much
worse than last unless you now make a peace where
the good time is come, as it is the last offer of peace
you will get from Virginia; so don't blame me when
hard times comes again among you as I have now
told you the truth and advised you for your good
and now offer to shake hands with all my Brothers
the Cherokees in behalf of Virginia ~

The bearer hereof or a runner sent from you
with a white flag must come to me here in twenty
days that I may know whether you are coming for
peace or not, they shall be kindly treated and kept
from harm

(Signed) Nathl Gist

Great Island Fort
25th March 1777

Endorsed Great Island Fort / 25th March 1777 / Copy of
a Talk from / Nathl Gist at Oconastota / & other head Men
of the / Cherokees ~ / In Mr. Stewarts (P^o 17) of / 14th June 1777.

(N^o 5.)

Whitehall Oct^r 11th 1777.

Mr. Stuart

Sir,

Since my Letter to you of the 2^d April, I have received your Dispatches N^os 13. 14. 15. 16. & 17. & have laid them with their several Inclosures before the King.

Your Account of the happy issue of your late Conference with the Chactaws & Chickasaws, was very pleasing to His Majesty; & I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that your Conduct in that Business as well as in the other important concerns of your Department is approved by the King. With a View to succour & support the Indians in your District, Orders were sent early in the last Spring to Lieut. Gov^r. Hamilton at Detroit to engage the Lake Indians to make an Attack upon the Frontiers of Virginia & Pennsylvania, & by the inclosed Extracts of his Letters to me in consequence you will see the Success of his Endeavours for that purpose. Accounts of these Nations having taken up the Hatchet will doubtless have been brought to you thro' the Indian Country before this reaches you; but I thought it would be useful to give you

without date.
27 July.

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[p 51]
authentic Information of what was going forward, that you might with greater Confidence/assure the Indians of Support; and it would be proper for you to represent to the different Nations, but especially to the Chickasaws who are nearest the danger, that this Attack upon the Virginians was planned in consequence of the preparations for invading their Country by the Settlers on the Ohio; & in order to prevent them from undertaking their intended Expedition down that River.

[p 52]
The Title of Colonel conferred on Mr. Johnson gives him no Rank in the Army, or Authority to command the King's Troops; It is confined to the Command of the Indians only, and as you appear desirous of a similar Commission, I shall send you one by the first Opportunity. I enclose Copy of my Letter to Gov. Hunter upon the Subject of the Complaints made to you by the Chactaws at the late Meeting; and I trust he will be able to carry the Measures he is directed to propose into full Effect.

11. Oct.

The late Success of the Carolina Rebel Cruizers in making Prize of Vessels with Indian Trading Goods on board is much to be

[p. 951]

authentic Information of what was going forward, that you might with greater Confidence/assure the Indians of Support; and it would be proper for you to represent to the different Nations, but especially to the Chickasaws who are nearest the danger, that this Attack upon the Virginians was planned in consequence of the preparations for invading their Country by the Settlers on the Ohio; & in order to prevent them from undertaking their intended Expedition down that River.

[p. 952]

14th Oct.

The Title of Colonel conferred on Mr. Johnson gives him no Rank in the Army, or Authority to command the King's Troops; It is confined to the Command of the Indians only, and as you appear desirous of a similar Commission, I shall send you one by the first Opportunity. I enclose Copy of my Letter to Gov. Hunter upon the Subject of the Complaints made to you by the Chactaws at the late Meeting; and I trust he will be able to carry the Measures he is directed to propose into full Effect.

The late Success of the Carolina Rebel Cruizers in making Prize of Vessels with Indian Trading Goods on board is much to be

lamented, and I fear will occasion you much
trouble to counteract the Machinations of the Rebel
Agents backed by such powerful Arguments:
That your difficulties in such case may not
be increased by the want of / Presents the Lords
of the Treasury have been pleased to direct a
considerable supply to be provided & sent out
by way of Jamaica for their greater Security in
the Fleet which is now preparing to sail; and
the Admiral upon that Station will have
Orders to forward them to Pensacola as soon
as they arrive by one of His Majesty's armed
ships upon that Station.

I am &c

Geo: Germain

Endorsed. D^{at} to M^r Blount. / 11th October 1777 / (N^o 5.) / Sent^d

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N^o 18)

Pensacola 22^d August 1777

[217]

My Lord

I had the honour of writing to your Lordship the 14th June giving a full account of my Transactions with the Chactaws, Chickasaws and other Indians who met me at Mobile, since which I am honoured with your Lordship's Letter N^o 3) dated 7th Feby.

I begg leave to return your Lordship my humble thanks for taking the trouble of pointing out to me so clearly the manner of stating my Accounts and drawing for the Expences of my Department upon the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury which I shall most punctually attend to in future

By this Opportunity I submit to their Lordships accounts of Expences in this Department from 1st January to 30th June this current Year. The necessity of calling together the Chactaws greatly augmented the Expence. Provisions of every Species were enormously dear; and as the Ordinance Ship Lord Amherst did not arrive in time, to furnish one with Goods for presents at said Congress I was/ under the Necessity of purchasing a sufficient quantity from Merchants here. I likewise found it necessary to send considerable Supplies of presents to the Deputies and Commissioners residing in the different Nations; for, the Indians while employed against the Rebels cannot hunt, and depend upon me for the

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Supply of every necessary.

I consider myself as most highly honoured by the Approbation of my Conduct signified in your Lordship's Letter; No exertion of my poor abilities shall be wanting to merit a Continuation of such favourable Sentiments and of the Confidence reposed in me; Success on my Endeavour will render me most happy.

Mr Galphin the Rebel Agent has been most assiduous in his endeavours to seduce the Creeks, he found means to prevail upon a Number from the Coweta Town in the Lower Creeks and from the Ocheeskees in y^e upper Nation to meet him upon the Frontiers of Georgia; of the Indians who went to said meeting there were only two of any Consideration, one of whom returned to the Nation, the other went to Charles Town but had not returned when Mr Gaith wrote me last

At the time that Mr Galphin had his meeting a Considerable Number of Coweta Indians went to harass the Frontiers of Georgia. They drove away a considerable Number of Horses from a Stockade fort, they were as they expected pursued by a party of Rebel Rangers, who fired upon and killed one Indian and Wounded another upon which they pretended to fly, but wheeling round unperceived by the Rebels, they placed themselves in ambush near the Road by which the Enemy were to return, and attacked them unexpectedly,

the Rebel party was entirely defeated and left 30 men dead upon the spot.

I beg leave to submit to your Lordship copies of Mr. Smith's two Letters which will convey an Idea of the State of that Nation.

About the end of last month a Deputation of 16 leading men sent by the Shactaw Nation, arrived at the Little Vallamies in the Upper Creek Nation, their Business was to confirm the peace and to assure the Creeks of their readiness to assist them in case of their being attacked; they were well received, and their promise of assistance when necessary, gave Spirits to the Creeks in His Majesty's Interest.

While the Creek Chief, called the Handsome fellow of the Oakfuskees, was in Charles Town; Mr. Galphin embraced the opportunity of sending one Mr. Murphy with an Interpreter under escort of the Cusseta Indians into the Nation, he desired a Meeting of the head men but few or none went. My Deputies had got together a considerable number of Indians and whitemen with an Intention to seize him, but the principal Chiefs in our Interest would not give their Consent, because it might endanger the life of the Handsome fellow, which might cause a Civil war in their Nation. but I believe Mr. Murphy will not be fond of re-turning again.

Brigadier General Prevost is of opinion that I ought to call a meeting of the principal Creeks in order to prevail upon them to attack the Rebellious Provinces in a Body - I begg leave to lay before your Lordships copies of the Brigadier's Letter & my Answer; wherein I have endeavoured to state my opinion clearly upon that Subject. If it becomes necessary to call the Creek Chiefs together at this Place it will be attended with a very considerable Expence - which if I can avoid incurring without detriment to the Service, it will give me pleasure, but upon this Subject I will begg to be assisted with Governour Chesters & Lieutenant Colonel Steels Advice - agreeable to my Instructions from the Commander in Chief Sir William Howe

The distress of the Cherokees for want of Provisions rendered it impossible for them to act offensively against the Rebels, a party of Creeks went to offer them their Assistance, but hunger obliged them to return to their Towns after an Excursion to the Frontiers of Virginia where they did some Mischief.

By the inclosed Letter to me from Mr Bloomart as well as from other Letters which I have received it appears that Don Bernardo Galvez, the Spanish Governor of New Orleans has of Late paid great attention to the Indian Tribes upon the Mississippi. This Attention has not been confined to the Indians settled in the

Spanish Territory, but was extended to the Chactaws
Yoncas and other Tribes depending upon His Majesty.
M^r Galves had a meeting of them at Point Couppe at which
the Number who received presents were computed to be 1500
Indians. I have given my Deputy on the Mississippi
Instructions to be more attentive to the Transactions of
the Spaniards with our Indians.

The Chactaws and Chickasaws continue in
their usual good Disposition. The former Nation sent
out Scouting Parties under the direction of some white
People, who watched the Mississippi during the Spring
and Summer.

I have the honour of being with the greatest
Respect

My Lord

Your Lordship's most
obedient and most humble
Servant:

John Stuart

The Right Honble

Lord George Germain

His Majesty's principal Secretary of State for America &c &c

Endorsed Pensacola 22^d Aug^t 1777. / Colonel Stuart / (N^o 18) /
R 5th Dec^r / (13 Inclosures) / Cont^d

[27]

Mississippi 4th June 1777

Sir

According to your desire we acquaint you of our proceedings on this River since our arrival, we are station'd below the Mouth of Tallihatcha, about Two Leagues close by one Jn^o Watkins, who is willing to inform us of any thing he hears. It is a very convenient place for Boats to come in going up or down, we live but very poorly. Provision is very scarce on this River, M^r Watkins supplies us with what he can. I went down to M^r Lyman for some corn but he had in all but 5 Bushels and promis'd if he could get any more to get it us, he said me very well and was very sorry he had no more to supply us with. He says there are but very few at the Natchez that are Loyal he says if he were properly authoriz'd that he would be happy to go to the Natchez & take corn and other provisions to supply the Indians with from the greatest of the Rebels, - M^r John Blomart was at the Arcansas but he heard no news of the Americans but said there was an hundred Indians there, Fifty of the Chickasaws and fifty of the Shawnee going towards them and turn'd back. He had a suspicion if the Americans would come that they would join them. M^r Blomart joins with M^r Lyman in his Opinion of the Natchez he says he does not believe there are five there loyal to their King; Another French Gentleman who was a Lt at the Illinois arrived here;

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he speaks good English and told us they heard nothing of the Americans this year they reckon they had enough to do at Home without coming this far he told us that the Back Indians were ready to fall on the Rebels when called
[178] on. We bring too all the Boats that go up and down. There are three Frenchmen up the Yagous that Trade with the Indians the principal Man's Name is St. Germain. He gives very bad Talks to the Indians against the English as Mr. Watkins informs us. They tell them the French are to join the Americans and the Country will be theirs again & such like Talks and the Indians believe them. Some of our Indians up that way to hunt the French quarrel'd with them because they heard they came against the Americans. They told the Indians if they would write where the Americans are they would come and cut them all off, further, they said, they were to build a Fort where they lived. If we had real proof of this we could do nothing with them for they are always far superior to us in Number and while together. But we are willing to try our Strength if we knew what to do with the Villains. Our Indians want to go Home and for that reason I write to you so soon, we cannot prevent them. They say they promise you to stay but Three Weeks and after the Bearers come back they'll stay no longer the Mushkito's and Ylies are so bad they cannot bear them. They are as good

Indians as we would wish to have, whatever we told
them to do they never grumbled. If you think to keep us
station'd here, please send us fifty Men with Ammunition,
If you can send us that Number there is no Occasion
for more than Four or Five good Fellows to scout; you'll
hear from us in Three Days if any thing happens, but
this Country is very deceitful, they would as soon kill
as look at us, - if they tho't they were able.

We remain,

Sir

Your most Obed^t & hble Serv^t
Signed, Rob^t M^c Gillivray
Robert Welsh

M^r Geo^r Bethune

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Robert M^c Gillivray
and / Robert Welsh Mississippi / 4th June 1777 / In M^r
Stuart's (N^o 16) / of 28th August 1777. / (1).

Copy -

St Augustine 14th June 1777 -

(1777)

Sir.

I have to answer your Favor p^r Capt Clarke and make use of the opportunity of Col^l Kirkland who is going by land to join you at Pensacola, to do it and to acquaint you with my late appointment as Brd^g General by which the Sole military command in both Floridas devolves upon me, until another General Officer is sent to West Florida, I have therefore to request that in future you will take every opportunity to make me acquainted with the situation of Affairs, relative to every Nation of Indians in your Department, together with an Exact Acct, how far they may be depended upon both upon an Offensive or a Defensive plan; your Ideas in general with regard to the mode of improving their assistance agreeable to the plan suggested by Governor Chester, & Col: Stiel, are very proper, I beg leave to add, that all necessary steps should be adapted, to engage the great Body of the Respective Nations in the Interest of Great Britain to act in a spirited manner, and openly to declare and avow their determin'd resolutions to force the Kings rebellious Subjects to return to their allegiance and Duty and to support one another to prevent any one of the Tribes that are contiguous to be overpower'd, such a measure would be productive of

two good effects, the first to convince the rebellious colonies the Danger to which their obstinacy will expose them, the next would be, that in case they should persist in the same Measures they must soon be reduced, to confine themselves to their few places of Strength, and by that means be deprived of all their Hopes of a Crop for their support the ensuing Season, such measures I conceive seems eligible as it would bring matters to an immediate decision, and is becoming the Dignity of a powerful Nation, who means more to bring its rebellious and deluded Subjects to a sense of its power and Superiority, than to harass and distress, a few perhaps innocent Inhabitants, the general consequence of the excursions of all the small parties of Indians, but to which we have been obliged to have recourse in the Situation this Province was in. -

I would therefore suggest to you the propriety of holding a Congress, and inviting to it the Chiefs and Head Warriors of all the Nations in alliance with Great Britain, who's vicinity gives some Hopes that they may be usefully employ'd in this affair; such a Council is generally more conducive to influence a Nation than a bare Message or the influence of one of your Agents, and Commissioners, and tho' perhaps more expensive just at that time, is frequently a considerable saving in the End; when you consider my reasons with some

attention I flatter myself that you will coincide in opinion with me, that while Sir William Howe with the Main Body of the Kings Troops is in the Heart of the Center Colonies, a proper exertion of force of the numerous Tribes who surround the Southern Provinces would soon reduce them, to an Evident necessity either of surrendering at discretion or of proposing such Terms to His Majesty's Commanders as it might be consistent with the Honors and Dignity of Great Britain to accept, The means of succeeding with the Indians and the place of Meeting, I readily submit to your Knowledge of Indian Affairs to fix upon at the same time I would intimate to you that the supposition of an Attack on West Florida being in my opinion entirely void and chimerical, and the situation of this Province so much easier of access to an Invasion from the Rebels, I conceive that your residence at this place and the influence, which you have amongst the Indians would tend greatly to its security and that the Congress might prove as beneficial in any part of this Province as at Mobile, or any other place in West Florida, besides which your residence here would enable you to procure a Number of white people for the purposes mentioned in Sir William Howe's Letter of the 13 Jan^y last, many of the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province who have been drove from their settlements and many

refugees from the revolted colonies would be happy to be employ'd.

You have been informed without Doubt that this province has been threatned with an Invasion from Georgia; It gives me pleasure to inform you, that their hostile Scheme, has been baffled and that they are return'd after some loss and little Credit, how long they may be before they return I know not, it depends entirely from the assistance which the Two Carolinas may be able to afford them, on a supposition that they have not sufficient employment / at Home -

I have the Honor to be with great Esteem

& regard

Sir

Your most Obed^t and most

Humble servant

signed; - A Prevost, Br General

John Stuart Esq^r.

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Brigadier General
Prevost / St Augustine 14th June 1777 / In 1777 Stuart's (N^o 15)
of / 28th August 1777. / (2.)

[A 305]

Copy of a Letter from Mr William Mcintosh
Assistant Commissary for the Lower Creek Nation
to Mr Alex^r Cameron dated Maycalikeys 6th July 1777

Sir.

The greatest part of the Cusitaws Utchies and
Pallachueta People are Arrived from Galphins Treaty,
have brought amazing quantities of Rum with them,
and have been so much engaged with that since
their Arrival, that I cannot at this time inform you
particularly, the Talks given them by the Rebels. How-
ever I am told as soon as the Rum is all out, the
Cusitaw King according to Mr Galphins desire
Intends to have a meeting with the whole of the
Lower Creeks, and has promised the Rebels to get all
the different Towns to join them, The old Gallanie Kings
son is likewise to act in the same manner in the
Upper Towns. The Talks are to drive all the Beloved
men out of the Nation, indeed a fellow called long brop
from the Cusitaws with some others yesterday came
over here with a View to take my Scalp, but he must
his Aim.

[A 306]

The Presents they received were very trifling
ammunition and Ball Likewise so, Rum was the
main Article, All the other Towns this way are ex-
tremely well disposed, and are determined to pay

not the least attention to the Huron Peoples Talks -

I hear of an Indian from Saint Augustine with a Packet for Mr Yaith - he is a Guchabatchie fellow and crossed the River two Days ago at the Little bowetars coming in a great hurry no doubt but he Arrived with you by this time - The Indians are Extremely Troublesome just now being much in Liquor therefore must remain

Sir

Your most obt humble S^t
(signed) Willm Mcintosh

Endorsed copy of a Letter from Mr/William Mcintosh/
6th July 1777/ In Mr Stuarth/ (N^o 18) of 28th Aug^r 1777. / (3.)

[P. 100]

Pensacola 11 July 1777.

Sir

I received your favour by Mr Gault and I hope before now you'll have received the presents by Mr Brown, which will enable you to supply the Wants of the Cherokees. I shall use my Endeavour to procure for you a Book of manual Exercise, but cannot get a Drum for you before the Arrival of a Vessel which I expect from England in which some that I ordered out may probably be sent.

By the inclosed Extract of a Letter to me from General Howe you'll observe his Sentiments respecting the Employment of Indians, and of the persons put upon Pay by me. As Mr Gault & the Indians themselves inform me that an Attack upon the Frontiers of Georgia is meditated immediately after the Bush, it becomes our Duty the persons paid by Government to accompany & direct the Attack of the Indians, that their Operations may be pointed against proper Objects. In the present Situation of Affairs we shall incur considerable Expence by suffering so many Men in high Pay to remain Inactive and you see what is expected by the General and I must acquaint you that from the Opinion they have of your Activity & Abilities Sir William Howe & Lt William Campbell have much dependence on therefore as you are upon the Spot you

will give such directions to the Officers of your District as may best forward the Service by employing your Men in Cooperating with the Indians agreeable to Sir Wil. liam Howe's Ideas & as Mr. Galt Returns immediately he is instructed by me to Confer with you upon this Subject & jointly to act in keeping up the Spirit of the Indians, agreeable to Sir William Howe's Ideas, and disposing them to prosecute their Intentions with Vigour, under your Direction and that of such White men as you may Judge fit to entrust in Accompanying and Conducting them. I have considered very minutely your Proposal of putting some Cherokees upon Pay. I do not find myself Authorised to take such a Step & if my Opinion was asked relative to it it would be that the Indians in this department should not be put on a different footing to what they are all over the Continent. Presents are deposited with you not to be given indiscriminately to the Whole Nation of Cherokees But to Reward such as go upon service & have merit of which you are to be the Judge. I at the same time Recommend to you in the Strongest Manner, to take every Opportunity of Inculcating into the Cherokee Indians that they themselves are the principals in this War, that the defence of them & their Lands is one of the Greatest Causes of it and they are to be put in mind that when they first undertook it they had principally in View to do

themselves justice by the Recovery of their Lands which had been invaded, and I wish you to discountenance in them every Idea of their being engaged in a War merely on our Account. The Reverse being so far true that the Regan is contrary to your Advice & Opinion. By this however it is not to be understood that I entertain the least Idea of making a distinction between them & the Other Nations in my district. They will most certainly have the same support & countenance as them so far as it is in my Power to give it while they behave properly.

I have been informed by a Coweta Indian who was lately here that all the Cherokees had left or were leaving the Lower Creeks, that many of them had left behind them fine fields of corn almost ripe that this caused much speculation amongst the Lower Creeks, that the Leading Cowetas acquainted them with their Suspicion, that they intended to Return in Order to join the Rebels which if they do they might henceforward consider them as their Enemies.

As Col^d Provost of the 60 Reg^t is Appointed Brigadier General to Command the Kings troops in both the Floridas untill another General is Appointed for West Florida I am to desire that you will by the most direct conveyance which may Offer inform him of any very material Circumstance or Occurrences in your District.

I am with Sincere Regard

Sir

Your most Ob^d Serv^t

(Signed) John Stuart

Alex^r Cameron Esq^t

Endorsed Copy of a Letter to/ Alex^r Cameron Esq^t /
dated Pensacola 11th / July 1777 / In 117th Stuart's (N^o 18) /
of 28th Aug^t 1777. ~ / (4)

Pensacola July 12th. 1777~

Sir,

Altho' the Creek Indians have consented to allow boats to be carried up the Chusa River with military stores, provisions &c. for the support of themselves and the white people that may join them to go against the Rebels in Georgia, yet at this Season of the Year there is not sufficient Depth of Water to carry up a Boat of a larger Draught of Water than a large Canoe, and even could a Boat be carried it would be a Month or Six Weeks in getting to Alabama Old Fort or to Little Tallisic the Distance by Land from this place to Little Tallisic is 220 Miles from thence to the Settlements on Squaha about 270 Miles, at this time the Flint River Demulgee and Oconee are fordable but the impossibility of finding provisions and Transporting it, and Ammunition in the Creek Nation is insurmountable at this time, as their provisions are not yet ripe, and as most of the Traders have been lately at this place their Horses will not be fit for Service for some time, and it is impossible to hire Horses of Indians, and indeed the Creek Indians are jealous of Soldiers or any Body of White Men coming in among them, that I am humbly of Opinion that the only attack that can be made against the settlements of Georgia with any certainty of Success must be from St Augustine, as

neither the upper nor lower Creeks can be prevail'd upon to go so far as St. Augustin and leave their Country exposed to the Rebels but have faithfully promised to assist His Majestys Cause so far as in their power by making Excursions on the upper Settlements of Georgia and altho a few of the Upper and Lower Creeks have gone to see Mr Galphin yet none of any note except the Handsome Yellow and Busitas King whose influence in the Creek Nation is very small / but not a single Man that I know of from the Cowetau Town, that Town to a Man being Firm Friends to Government, most of the principal Warriors from the Cowetaus, Musichie, Broken Arrow, and some Hitchita people were with me since the Busitaws &c. set off for Georgia and soon eager to go against the Settlements, as soon as their Green born dance was over which was Order'd to be all over the Nation the first of this Moon, nay even the White Lion Nephew to the Handsome fellow declared to me that His Uncle had no intention to join the Rebels but went with no other Design than to hear what the Rebels had to say and to see if they really had such supplies of Goods as Mr Galphin had sent Word he had.

It will be impossible ever to co-operate in any Scheme that may be concerted at St Augustin unless timely Notice is given to me in the Nation, as Expresses are often Two and Three and Thirty Days coming from

shint Augustine to me, and it is impossible to turn out
Indians at a Day or two Days Notice, they must prepare
Stores and Provisions before they can move, besides there
is allways some of the Old Men endeavours to keep their
Young Men from going to War ever against their own
Color for fear of being killed, so we can never be certain
of a Number of Men untill they have got some distance
from home. If there is any Truth in Red Men I can
venture to assure you that there will a great Number
in Different parties go out wherever directed against
Georgia, so soon as I get to the Nation if it should be
agreeable to you, I shall therefore be glad to have your
Directions what plan to pursue,

I have the Honor to be with the greatest
Respect

Sir

Your most obed. & most humble ser
(Signed) David Gaith.

The Honble John Stuart Esquire,

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / D Gaith Esq / 12th July 1777 /
In Mr. Stuart's / (N^o 10) of 28th Aug^r. 1777 / (5)

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Alexander Cameron to
John Stuart Esq^r, dated Little Tallasse 13th July 1777.

Sir

Since I had the pleasure of writing you 10th Instant Mr. Mr. Donald and Jack Archie the Jude Friend and about 10 Indians arrived here from Chugamaga which place he left the 2^d Instant. He informs me that 3 white men from S^c Carolina by way of Holston came down in a canoe to Chugamaga who were willing to make oath to what they Related. They left the long Island the 17th Ult^o where they were informed that General Howe with his Army was opposite to Philadelphia where the Artificers were at work making of Boats to ferry them over to the City. That Washington with the Rebels was preparing to attack him, but it was now the General opinion that the Rebels must soon give up the point. They likewise confirm what the Northern Indians brought in, that when they were at Holston an Express arrived there from Colonel Henderson below Quia River begging some Assistance of men as they were entirely Blocked up after losing a Number of People as well as their Battle, but that they could not spare any being still afraid of the Cherokees.

It was currently Reported that the Virginians

intended to Secure Twenty of the Cherokee at the Signing
Treaty for Hostages for the strict performance of the Peace
But Mr. Mr. Donald and the Judge tells me that even the
young Fellows who went in with the Warriors are now
impatient to begin again, And all those who followed
the canoe Declares that all the Hostages they can keep
will not save them, if they could see any Assistance,
and even without they intend to try their hand as
soon as they can get a little corn to eat. These men
say also that the Carolinians and Georgians sent all
the way to Virginia for Assistance of Men to cutt off
the Creek last Spring, but that they could not spare
them a Man, which is the cause of their pretended
Friendship with them at this time. The canoe treated
these Men in the kindest manner and Escorted them
down the River towards the Chickasaws upwards of
100 Miles one of them intend to go round to Pensacola
and inform you and if you favor him with any
Commands back he would very willingly undertake
it; He says that the Dutch man you sent in last Win-
ter was taken and is to be hanged

There is a person here who has a large demand
against you for guiding him to the Frontier agreeable
to your Request - Isham Shaffold, Richard Pontiac
and William Rogers were the Men Names above
mentioned Mr. Mr. Donald says that the canoe Party

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF CANADA
who were in here some time ago spoke and ridiculed very much on their return about the Presents they received here -

In regard to Presents and Provisions I gave them 2 p^{cs} Strouds, Do^t of M^r Honzie & Campbell 2 doz & 4 Shirts, some Blankets, 1 Doz paint, 3 dozen knives and all the provisions I could muster 1 Keg Rum 4 Saddles, Tobacco, 8 p^{cs} Scarlet Boots, 3 Hettles, 50th powder and 1 Ball in proportion - Guns I could not get, in short I did every thing in my power to satisfy them - it is true that every Mans share was but small and they will not consider whether a man has it in his power or not to supply them plentifully, at the same time I must beg leave to say that tho the Expense is great, every Mans quota is but small and many who never receive any - By the last House I received 300th powder and Ball Equivalent I would require at least 1000th powder for the Cherokees, who still refuse to take the Rebels by the hand and those who have gone over are still our Firm Friends if they had it in their power to show it -

In my last I mentioned that the appearance of a good party of Chactaws and Chickasaws would be of much service in this Nation and I think so still -
Endorsed Extract of a Lett from M^r Alex^r Cameron / 13th July 1777 / In M^r Stuart's (N^o 18) of 28th August / 1777. / (6)

Copy

Pennacola 14th July 1777

Sir

Colonel Provost being by His Majesty's Command appointed a Brigadier General in America and to Command His Majesty's Forces in the Province of East and West Florida untill another General shall be appointed to Command in the latter Province you are by the safest and most direct Conveyance to communicate all material Intelligence to him of every event by which His Majesty's Service may be greatly affected

I am

Sir

Your most Obed^t.

humble Servant

Signed John Stuart

David Gaite Esq^r

Endorsed Copy of a Letter from the Superintendent to Mr Gaite dated Pennacola / 14th July 1777 / In 11th Stuart's / (N^o 18) of 28 August 1777. / (7)

Pennacola 14th July 1777-

Sir,

In answer to your Letter of Yesterdays date I am to acquaint you that I shall lay your said Letter with the acc^t of Expences inclosed in it before his Majesty's Secretary of State, my Lord George Germain and upon receiving his Lordships directions I shall then be able to acquaint you with the result of your application ~

As I have fully communicated to you, General Sir W^m Howe's orders and Ideas relative to Indians in my department, and the management of them, & as you see what is expedient from us, I recommend to you to exert yourself in the Execution of his Orders, & as the Indians propose attacking the Settlement of Georgia immediately after the Rush, you will collect and employ as many white men upon whom you can depend as you can to cooperate & direct their Operations to the proper Objects ~

I am likewise to desire that you will consult and cooperate with Mr. Cameron in employing the Indians to the greatest Advantage so as to distress the Rebels, & divert their Attention and Strength from being employed in opposing the King's Army under his Generals to the Northward and in doing this I request that no time may be lost, perhaps considerably more is expected from us than we can

perform, but let us do our utmost - Mr Cameron will
communicate to you my Letter to him, & the Extract of
General Sir W^m Howe's Letter - I wish you a pleasant
Journey & am

Sir

Your obed^t humble Serv^t

(Signed) John Stuart.

To

David Yaitt Esq^r

Enclosed Copy of a Let^r to 'D. Yaitt Esq^r / 14th July
1777 / In Mr Stuart's / (N^o 18) of 28th August / 1777. / (8)

(Copy)

Pernacola 28th July 1777.

Sir

I am to acknowledge the Honor of your letter of the 14th June which I received the 5th Current by Col^l Wickland and I beg leave to offer my Compliments of Congratulation on your being appointed Brigadier General by His Majesty's Order; and as consequently the command and Management of all Military Operations in both Floridas Devolve upon you, it will give me pleasure & is my Duty to keep you informed regularly of all matters in my Department the knowledge of which may in any Degree forward your views for the Good of the Service.

It gives me great pleasure that the General Plan which I suggested and drew up and which was approved of by Governor Chester and Colonel Stiel has also met with your Approbation.

In Order the more firmly to engage all the tribes in a general confederacy for supporting His Majesty's Cause, I called together the Chiefs of the Choctaws, and Chickasaw Nations, I met them at Mobile the Beginning of May to the Number of near Three Thousand Where I had also some leading men of the upper Creeks, - Our conferences lasted near a month, the result was that They gave the Strongest assurances of their loyalty and Attachment to His Majesty's

Interest, and readily engaged to join as far as practicable in any plan which may be adopted; I produced to them the war belts and Tallys sent in by the Shawnee and Northern Indians which they very readily laid hold of and agreed to give their Assistance to any Nation in this District which may be Attached, in consequence of which a Deputation from the Chactaws consisting of some of the first and most leading Chiefs in the Nation, is gone to the Upper Creeks to agree upon some plan of Operations, and to assure them of the Assistance of their Nation. - I recommended the same measures to the Chickasaws, but as their Nation is more remote, I have not as yet heard their Determination upon that Head, These Steps may I hope have a Good Effect and revive the drooping Spirits of the Creeks who were Much disheartened by the Fate of the Cherokees.

Mr. Galt who came here upon Business has just returned to his Station at the Little Tallies, some Days before he left the Nation he held a Council of all head men at which the warrior of the Cowetas was present, when it was agreed that an attack should be made upon the Frontiers of Georgia, as soon as a Sufficient quantity of corn could be got to support them upon the Expedition, I have sent the upper Creeks a very considerable supply of Arms Ammunition and other Goods, and also to the Lower Creeks,

but want of provisions renders it impossible to call a meeting here at present, for the State of the Nation I beg leave to refer you to Mr Smith's Letter written by him when he was here of which I send a copy.

The Chactaws and Chickasaws form a Body of about 5000 men bearing Arms, They are as well disposed as any Indians can be, but their great Distance from the rebellious Provinces renders it impracticable to employ them Offensively, in any Number, unless they were to act jointly with other Forces and could be supplied with Necessaries and Provisions of every Sort; without which it never will be possible to employ a respectable Force of Indians at any Distance from their Villages, When I pressed the Chiefs of the Creeks upon this Subject last winter their Answer was "That they were willing to assist us but it must be in their own way, for without they were to act with White men, who would furnish them with provisions and Necessaries any great number of red men could not subsist in a Body together, but they would give us any Assistance in their power by Excursions in small parties upon the Settlements

This they have done by many different parties and a strong Body of Cowarts are just returned from the Forks of Ogeechy where they attacked a Stockade Fort, killed two men and had One of their own

Men killed and Two wounded, in revenge of which they
propose going to war again when their corn comes to
be Ripe; The consequence of the Attack was that the
Rebels abandoned the Fort and an other party of Indians
^[p. 412] burnt it down. - Now Sir I Submit it as my Opinion
that in Our Circumstances and situation without ports
or Magazines of provisions, without any warlike Appa-
-ratus or Conveniency Great Bodies of Indians cannot
be marched 3. 4. or 500 Miles thro' a Distant Country, and
as I have represented to all my Superiors with whom
I have The Honor of Corresponding, by Indians Acting
without the Support of Regulars, or the Necessaries which
I have pointed out, - No impression of any moment can
be made upon the Rebels, the only Alternative is to send
them out in their own way to alarm & divert the Atten-
-tion of the contiguous provinces and to Oblige them to
seek protection in their Stockades, by which the Advan-
-tages which you have mentioned in your Letter may
be Gained.

With respect to the Defensive use which may
be made of Indians in case of any attack upon St. Au-
-gustine or this place, I am of Opinion that the Assist-
-ance of any Nation at a Distance from either cannot
be depended upon, the upper or even the Lower Creeks
cannot be prevailed upon to march Five or Six hun-
-dred miles to the Assistance of St. Augustine; - And

the Cephala which is the nearest to it of all the Lower Towns is 370 Miles distance. - It therefore appears to me that the Seminollic Creeks can only be Depended upon in case of any sudden attack of East Florida for Effec-
-tual Assistance, - And from the Cephala Downwards it is computed that the Seminollics consist of 800 Men bearing Arms, this place being much more contiguous to the great Indian Nations, a Body of Indians for the defence of it can with much more Ease and convenience be collected in a short Time, for an Express from hence to the upper or Lower Creeks, or to the Chactaws will perform the Journey in Five days, and I have often received Letters in Four from Mr McIntosh and Mr Galt, and in Nine Days I Receive Letters from the Chickasaws and Cherokees settled near them, but if we were at this time in Danger of an Attack the Indians could not be called to our assistance for want of provisions.

The Rebels have their Commissaries in all the Indian Nations which whilst the Management of the Trade is upon the present footing cannot be prevented, for by the King's Proclamation of 1763 every person who can give security for the Observation of Regulations has a right to a Licence to Trade in any Nation of Indians, which gives the Rebels an Opportunity of sending their Commissaries under the Character of

Traders, packhousemen and servants without Danger of being Detected, by such means the Rebel Agents have gained over some of the Creeks to their Interest, but not persons of any weight.

In this situation of Affairs I am anxious to send out parties to keep the Breach open for Fear the Disaffection should increase; and when I can furnish myself with provisions, I shall again send for some of the principal Chiefs of the upper & Lower Creeks to meet me in the fall, but as I propose having some of the other Nations at the same time the Meeting must be at this place, for no consideration whatever would induce any of the Chactaws, Chickasaws, Cherokee, or even upper Creeks to go to St Augustine, a Thousand, Eight hundred, and Six hundred Miles from their respective Nations.

as His Excellency the Commander in Chief and you are pleased to leave this to my Judgement I must represent to you that I think it would be dangerous at this time for me to leave this place, in Order to reside at St Augustine, as by so doing, I must Trust the whole weight of my Department in other Hands, and the Indians would undoubtedly consider my removing from hence as a desertion of them, and at such a Distance from all the Nations, I could not use my influence with any but the Seminoles who are very well with Governor Tonn and Mr Skinner, but the whole Bulk of the Indians

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would be dissatisfied and might listen to the Rebel Agents and Commissioners, at the same time sir I beg you will be assured that it would give me the greatest pleasure to be near you, and contribute all within the reach of my abilities to forward your views, but while it is left to me to determine upon the place of residing, I should accuse myself of failing in my Duty, if I should put myself in a Situation, that would disable me from managing the principal Business of my Department, by removing to such a Distance, altho' it would be more convenient and agreeable to me with respect to my own Inclination and private concerns, to live at St Augustine.

As my Deputies Mr Cameron and Mr Galt propose going with the Cherokees and upper Creeks upon their meditated Expedition against the rebellious provinces, I believe they will be able to carry with them 100 White men, that in consequence of Sir William Howe's Orders to me we have enlisted, A return of them I hope I shall be able to send you per packet.

I now write Mr Mc Laurin at St Augustine. to take charge of such Refugees as are there, and willing to be enlisted for a year, and to put himself with them under your Direction, and as soon as a return of them can be sent to me, I shall remit Bills upon the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury for their pay. —

I have raised a Troop of 25 Light Horse here

who sett off immediately for the upper breaks, they are all
Refugees. Three of them who misbehaved & were mutinous
I confined to the Guard House and applied to Col^t Stiel
who ordered a Court Martial upon them, but the Officers
who sat, would not consider them as Soldiers Altho' they
were regularly enrolled and Had the Articles of war read
to them. My Orders from the General is to enroll them, to
appoint persons to command them and to make them
Obeys, which I conceive can only be under the articles
of war; Col^t Stiel and many other Old Officers here
are of Opinion that they might and ought to have been
Tried, but you will be pleased to decide in this matter,
and give your Orders Accordingly.

The several inclosures I Submit, as they will
tend to give you a cleare Idea of the State of the Nations.

I have the Honor to be with

Great respect / Sir

Your most Obed^t and most

Hble Serv^t

signed Jⁿ Stuart.

Brigadier General Augustin Prevost.

Endorsed Copy of a Letter from Jⁿ Stuart to Brigadier
Gener^l Prevost dated pensacola / 24th July 1777. / In Jⁿ
Stuart's (N^o 18) / of 28th August 1777. / (9)

[to John Stuart]

[17.10.77]

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Galt Deputy in the
Creek Nation to the Superintendent dated Little
Tallahassee 3^d August 1777.

On my arrival here the 24th ult. I found
a party of Chactaws in possession of my house viz^t
Franchiourmastake Small Medal Chief of Yassou, Capi-
tan Houma, Gabocca, & Testonnaco Mingo, and others
to the amount of 17 in Number, they parted apparently
well satisfied, and engaged to give the Creeks assist-
-ance if they should stand in need of it. They were
desirous that some of the Chiefs of this Nation should
go and visit the Chactaws that no doubt or suppo-
-sition might remain on the minds of the young
people of either Nation that their professions of
Friendship were ~~not~~ Sincere.

While the Chiefs were assembled I read Sir
William Howe's talk to them, they appeared to be
highly pleased with it and assured me that their
Intentions were not the least altered from what they
had so often professed but that the Handsome fellow
and others of their Nation being still among the Rebels
prevented their turning out against the Settlements
so soon as was intended.

Escoutchaby has been with me and seems
firmly attached to His Majesty's Interest; he came here

on purpose to see how the Upper Creeks in general stood affected as Bigus Mico of the Oahfuskees had been at the Bussitas and reported that all the Upper Creeks had joined the Rebels. Escoutehaby arrived just in time to see the Chactaws and most of the Chiefs of the upper Creeks. He was well satisfied to see them firm in their determination to abide by your Talks. Most of the young fellows of the Oahfuskees and great Tallaninis are desirous of going against the Rebels as soon as they can be furnished with provisions.

I am sorry that it is out of my power to comply with the Instructions which I received from you at Pensacola for want of the Real necessities of Life; this Distress has obliged me to Discharge some of my People already: and for the same reason the Indians cannot be of any material Service further than in keeping out Scouts to watch the motions of the Georgians until some attack is made upon that Province, upon the sea coast; when any Plan of that sort is settled if I am made acquainted with it in time, I make no Doubt of being able to carry a great Body of Indians from this Nation to Cooperate with the Kings Troops by keeping the Frontiers in awe while they are reducing the Lower part of the Province -

I must beg leave to observe to you that it is necessary something be done soon by the Kings

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26

troops otherwise it will be impossible to keep the Indians steady while the Rebels are counting their favour and promising them forgiveness for the mischief which they have already done, with a supply of goods at a lower rate than they are furnished from West Florida, and all this upon condition of their remaining Neutral

Mr Murphy and his companions made a precipitate retreat from the Oakfuskee before my arrival he was escorted by thirty Indians to the Cussitah. I am told that Bernard Miller & Gough were constant attendants on Murphy and his Party at the Cussitah, these men ought never to be allowed goods from Pensacola in future, for the Part taken by the Indians in any Village or Town will be according to the Disposition of the Trader who lives amongst them -

Commissaire begs of you to write to the Chactaws to be ready to march to the assistance of his Nation when called for, and bring plenty of Provision with them he likewise expects the assistance of some troops which was promised him in case this Nation should stand in need of it. I have sent for the white Lieutenant and Wills Friend from Oakfuskee, on purpose to try to bring these people back to their dependence upon His Majesty and to oppose the Rebels in case of an attack. I have the Honour of being &c^a

Endorsed Extract of a Let^r from / Mr Laitt to the
Superintendent dated Little / Yallahie 3^d Aug^r 1777 /
In Mr. Stuart's (N^o. 18.) / of 28th August 1777. / (10)

Copy

Little Gallassie 13th August 1777

[201]

Sir

Since writing to you by Gavin, the White Lieut
and Wills friend from the Oakfuskees have been here
they acquainted me with Mr Galphin Talks, wherein
"he promised them a Trade and forgiveness for past Of-
"fences upon their agreeing to lay Ruter and desiring
them to order Mr Mr Intosh and myself out of the Nation
first in a civil manner but if we refused to go then to
use force, and said a great deal about your writing
to Mr Cameron to employ the Cherokee against them
(the Rebels) and told them that you now only meant to
"deceive them to get their principal men cut off and then
you would send an Army from West Florida against
them. That this was your design by sending some part
of them to Saint Augustine and other parties towards
their Settlements but for his part he was their Friend
and did not want to see them hurt or distressed, and
as soon as he got some pack horses he would send
them Goods. In private he asked Cajus Mico of the
Oakfuskees if he would go and spill blood on the
Paths to Pensacola and Mobile, in case any more
parties went against the Settlements of Georgia;
"but upon not receiving a satisfactory Answer he [202]
"told Cajus Mico that he was only trying what he
would say."

I promised Will's Friend and the Lieutenant good presents in case they would seize on whatever goods Mr Galphin might send up to their Towns to Trade, and deliver up the Trader and his People to me; They said that as the handsome Yellow was not yet come up, they could not make me any promise, but as soon as he came would talk with him and endeavour to bring him into my proposal, before he had time to cause any more confusion in the Nation, they went home very well satisfied and promised to bring the handsome Yellow as soon as he came home.

The Party that set out from hence, were obliged to return from the Lower Creeks where they could not be supplied with provisions; Since their return another party went from Tuskegee to look out towards Seneca, but were stop'd at the Euphalas by the Threats of the Oapuskee People, who said if any went out before the return of the Handsome Yellow, they would send parties towards Pensacola.

Some of the Euphala People are lately returned from about Seneca, and say there is no appearance of any Army coming this way and that most of the out-settlers moved in. / Since the Party of bowetas that defeated the Scout in the Upper Trading path came home, another Party has brought in thirteen head of Horses, and several parties are

still out, so that I dare say no goods will come up which will be ~~very~~ lucky for us.

The Mad Dog and Bear were with me yesterday and acquainted me that some of their People were going soon to Saint Augustine with Tom: I advised them to let as many go as would and not to stop any that were willing. - I represented to them the consequence of suffering any Traders to come into their Towns from Galphina and acquainted them with your orders to withdraw every other white Person from among them in case of their protecting Rebels. They said that their Nation was so conquered on account of the handsome Yellow being down that they knew not what to do: Besides that they had not provisions to go any where with, but said they would agree to any thing I should point out to them. I advised them to provide themselves with provisions as soon as possible, that they may be ready in case of being called upon, as I expected that The King's Troops would make an attack on Carolina and Georgia very soon. They promised to prepare as fast as possible, but I dare say it will be the middle of next month before Provision^{ing} can be got

Unless something is done very soon by the Troops to the Southward it will be impossible to

keep the Indians in Suspense much Longer, and if any
thing is determined upon from East Florida, I should be
Glad to know it in time that we may be of what Ser-
vice we can: And indeed the principal Service that
can be done will be to join the King's Troops with as
great a Number of Indians as possible some where near
Fort Barrington on the Alatahamaha which is much
nearer than to go to Saint Augustine and will save
a great deal of trouble in Travelling I am

Sir

Yc^a

Signed David Yaitt

John Stuart Esq^r

Endorsed copy of a Letter from / Mr Yaitt to the Super-
intend^t / Dated Little Gallanee / 18th August 1777 / In Mr.
Stuart's / (N^o 18) of 28th Aug^r 1777. / (11)

Sir.

I think it my Duty by Virtue of my Oath as a Magistrate, an old Servant to Government, and a Loyal Subject to His Britannick Majesty, to Address you, as Superintendant General of Indian Affairs for the Southern District, and lay before you the unwarrantable, and Illegal proceedings, carrying on by our Neighbours the Spaniards, on the River Mississippi to which if required I am ready to make Oath;

In the Month of April last I was at the Arkansas when Monsieur De Villier the Spanish Commandant there and a Captain in that Service brought about a Peace between the Utaga Nation and the Arkansas, the former a considerable Nation little inferior to the Chactaws, At the same time a party consisting of five Warriors and their Families of Delawares, arrived there as also six Chickasaw Warriors who all went and took the aforesaid Commandant by the hand; the latter with their leader known by the name of Billy Glover came to join a party of the Arkansas and to go to War against the Utagas as was their frequent custom, but they were persuaded to make Peace with the Utagas and accepted of Presents from the aforesaid Commandant.

Some time in May 1775 Baptiste Duquene Chief of the Haskashia Indians went to Mobile in hopes to

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Some time in May 1775 Baptiste Duquene Chief ^{Chief} of the Haskahia Indians went to Mobile in hopes to

have met you there, but being disappointed made application to Charles Stuart Esq^r your Deputy and after receiving a Medal and some presents from him came back to the Natchez where I gave him and his Interpreter a Quantity of Ammunition Blankets Shirts &c. at the same time admonished them to be good and fast friends to our Sovereign Lord the King which they faithfully Promised to be. But how great was my Surprise when soon after going to the Arkansaws I found that he and his Nation including the Piorians consisting of two hundred and one Warriors besides Women and Children were (and actually now are) on the Spanish side of the Mississippi hearkening to the pernicious Talks daily given them by the Spaniards to the great prejudice of His Majesty's Subjects on the River Mississippi whom they have Robbed to a considerable amount myself and a M^r W^m Baron in Particular. As I had frequent Occasions to go to the Spanish Fort at the Arkansaws I there met with some of the abovementioned Tribes which gave me an opportunity (through M^r Baron as Interpreter) of expressing my Surprise at their behaviour which had some Effect upon them for they soon after dispatched a Kaskaskia Chief by name Camainia with a Calumet and a straight Talk to me wherein he expressed how sensible they were of their faults

and gave assurances of their future good disposition towards us and that their only wish was to come back to their former Friends; As they required an Answer I told them I was happy to find them so sensible of their Errors and that their Promise of Amendment gave me great Satisfaction, and further assured them that I would communicate their desires to their great Father (meaning you Sir) and that I had great hopes of a Reconciliation and that on my return (which would be in November next) I hoped to give them a Welcome Answer.

Inclosed I send you a Letter I received from Chevalier Rostblave, (the British Commandant in the Illinois Country) for your perusal by which you will find the disposition of the Spaniards & that the Contagion is universal in the Mississippi

I must not omit to acquaint you of two Cruel Actions committed by the said Commandant at the Arkansas last fall A young man, a Trader named Shoepock on his way down the River called at this Fort for Provisions in a Large Barge loaded with Peltries for Manchac the Spaniards instantly seized his Barge, put him and his Passengers in Prison and after taking all his Peltries from him sent him off without any Satisfaction ~ A partner of this same man named Henry Stampley having Occasion for some Provisions

went up to the Arkhamaw Village to purchase Corn he was immediately seized by the order of the Commandant Ironed hand & foot sent down to New Orleans and put in Prison. this man being of a very fair Character all the application possible was made for him by the English Gentlemen in the Mississippi but they could never obtain his Enlargement & I have great reason to believe he will be sent to the Mines.

On my way down the Mississippi in the Month of June last I saw Don Bernardo de Galvez the present Governor of Louisiana at Point Coupée who had assembled all the Indians on or near the Mississippi to the number of fifteen hundred Warriors & gave them Talks and Presents; - the different Tribes were

The Belouis	}	British Indians
Pasquagoulas		
Chachtoos		
Alibarnas		
Papouas		
Nachitoches		
Apalusas &		
Shetemarhaws		

The Tonicas went also and received presents, the former four Tribes are desirous to come back to their former residence namely the Bays of St Louis & Beloui & only wait for some encouragement.

From good authority I was Informed at Spanish Point boupee that five New Forts were to be Erected by Order of the Spanish Government on the Mississippi the places appointed for that purpose are at the Englishmans ^{Towns} ~~Towns~~ two on the opposite shore one at the upper end of Point boupee and one at the Entrance of the Red River that leads to Natchitoch, where they have for some years kept a Corporals Guard and the other at Natchez - Their having of four Row Gallies on the Mississippi was in agitation

I must not omit to Inform you that two of the Arkansas Chiefs (with their Warriors) of the Middle Town named Gaspar (Gutor to the head Chief now a Minor) and the Young Chief of the lower Town are much disposed to take the English by the hand and actually made application to me to represent to you their intention and expect an answer on my return. the Party of Delawares which I mentioned in the former part of this Letter Informed me they expected a large Number of their Nation to follow them the ^{ensuing} fall & it's much to be feared they will if not timely prevented follow the Steps of the Ashas-ahas and Piorians. -

If what I have set forth and my own Personal endeavours can be of any Service You may

at all times command him who is a lover of his
Country

I have the honor to be

Your most Respectfull

and most Obedient

humble servant

Jⁿ Blommart

Pensacola 18th August

1777 —

The honorable John Stuart Esq^r

Endorsed Let^r from John / Blommart Esq^r / to the
Superintend^t / 18th Aug^t 1777 / In Mr. Stuart's / (N^o 18) of
28th August / 1777 ~ / (12)

[439]

Indian Towns Creeks	Distance from Saint Augustine Miles	Distance from Pensacola Miles
Allatchoway	170	430
Micaukie	220	280
Euphalas	370	130
Cowetas	410	150
Shovouilahatchie	450	190
Great Tallassee	475	230
Little Tallassee	502	220
Corra	569	210
Chactaws & Chickasaws . .		
Chickasahayes	700	200
Upper Yanson	870	295
Chickasaw Nation	1025	525

Endorsed Indian Nations / and / their Computed Dis.
tances / from / Saint Augustine & / Pensacola / In Mr
Stuart's (N^o 18) / of 28th August 1777. - / 13

[p. 85]

Pensacola 26th July 1777

Sir

I had the Honour of writing you the 10th March ^[added later]
Since which I have received your Letter by the Lord
Simhurst armed ship, which arrived here about the begin-
ning of last month I have also received all the Indian
presents except 10 barrels Glints; the other Packages were
very much broken but I believe none of the presents
were lost or damaged

Immediately after my return from Mobile I did
myself the honour of Submitting to my Lord George
Germain an Account of what passed at my meeting with
the Chactaws. They returned to their Nation in perfect
good humour, and a very Leading Chief with his
followers are sent by them to the Creeks to consult, and
agree upon some plan of Operations, and to strengthen
the Confederacy which I proposed to them

The Upper and Lower Creeks have resolved to
attack the Frontiers of Georgia immediately after the
Dusk, when they can be supplied with Corn. I hope
it will be in my power to send 80 or 100 white men
with them who know the Country and can direct
the Operations of the Indians properly. This may divert
the Attention of the Rebels and give Security to St Au-
gustin and East Florida.

The Indians from the Guiseta and Ochusee

Yowns who were invited down by Mr Galphin, have
[26] returned to the Nation the presents which he gave them
consisted of Rum and a beavly allowance of powder
and shot. The great quantity of Rum which they car-
ried home to their Towns kept them so long intoxicated
that as yet I have not learnt what the result of Mr
Galphin's meeting was. however I have the satisfaction
to be pretty certain that the rest of the Nation will not
pay much regard to what they may tell them for no
Indian of any consequence went to the meeting, ex-
cept the handsome fellow of the Oahpustees and the
head man of the Cumitahs. not one man from the Coweta
Town went they are now the more firmly attached of
any in the Nation to His Majestys Cause, which is a
great and unexpected disappointment to Mr Galphin.
A strong Party of them is just returned from an Expe-
dition against one of the Rebel Forts in the fork of
Oquechie River. They killed some People whom they
surprised out of the fort, but lost one of their own
People and brought off two dangerously wounded one
of them son to the young Twin Gooquelkie.

The Shawonee have fallen upon the Settlements
made by one Henderson between Cumberland and
Louisia Rivers, upon Indian Lands; and the Cherokee,
who were compelled to come to Towns with the Rebels
have sent word to Mr Cameron that they are ready

to join with the Creeks in an Attack upon the Re-
bellious Provinces—

I hope these Motions of the Savages may so
engage the Attention of the Rebels as to facilitate the
Operations of His Majesty's Armies to the Northward
in reducing the revolted Provinces.

If my son should be in London when this
Letter arrives there, he will by my direction have the
honour of delivering this Letter to you. I presume to beg^[P. 107]
your Countenance to him. he has had the Advantage
of a good Education. I intended him for the Study of the
Law, but he declares his inclination for the Army. I have
presumed to beg my Lord George Germain's patronage
& Interest for him to purchase an Ensigny in the Guards,
which if I can obtain I shall be extremely happy and think
myself as well as him very fortunate. I hope you will
pardon the Liberty I take and if you think me capable
of rendering you any Service in this part of the World,
I shall esteem myself much honoured by Your commands

I have the honour of being with much respect

Sir / your most obedient

most humble Servant

John Stuart

William Knox Esq: under Secretary of State &c^o

Endorsed Penacola 26th July 1777 / Col: Stuart / 10th Dec^r /^[P. 108]

Rx 9th Decem^r / Brit^l

[P. 177]
Pennacola 26th August 1777

Sir

I am honoured with your Letter of 3rd February and I sincerely hope and wish that your Journey to Bath may have restored your health.

The Lord Amherst had sailed before your Letter came to hand. I received the bark and Trunk which you mention marked S^W_S No. 2 but many most of the Articles were very acceptable to the Indians and very few remain unissued. my Deputies were here at the time it was opened and had their proportion of it among the other presents deposited with them in the different Nations. the remaining part not fit for Indians shall be disposed of agreeable to your directions.

Since closing the Letter which I had the honour of writing my Lord George Germain by this Packet I have received advices from the Creek Nation that the blow struck by the Cowetas mentioned in 6th Letter has again spoilt Galphin's path, and made it as crooked as ever. and the whole Nation is now unanimous for War. but I shall endeavour to restrain them untill I can get them put under proper leaders altho it will be extremely difficult to find such here, but what has been done could not be avoided for while they were negotiating with Galphin. I was under the necessity of keeping the

Breach open, as I did not choose to run the risk of losing them. But this is such a conjoined / remote corner that we know nothing, altho at the end of August we have had no Intelligence from the Northward since May and then the Campaign was not opened. The Indians cannot be long kept in order without some Effort be made to the Southward this Fall; for the Rebels tell them what best suits their own purposes without the least regard to truth -

We have a flying report that Mr Galphin is dead, the handsome fellow and his party who had been at Charles Town are detained and not suffered to proceed further on their way home than Silver Bluff, and the Idea of Traders being sent into the Nation from the Rebels is quite at an end. The Departure of the Packet will not give me time to enlarge, but by next Packet I shall do myself the honour of writing you more fully. I return you my most sincere thanks for the Gazette Extraordinary which I received

I have the honour of being with Respect / Sir

Your most obedient and

most humble Servant

John Stuart

William H. Ross Esq^r Under Secretary of State &c.

Endorsed Pensacola 26th August 1777 / Col^d Stuart /

W.H. / R 5th December / Ent^d